



# THE WALKING DEAD

11  
AUG



KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING DEAD™

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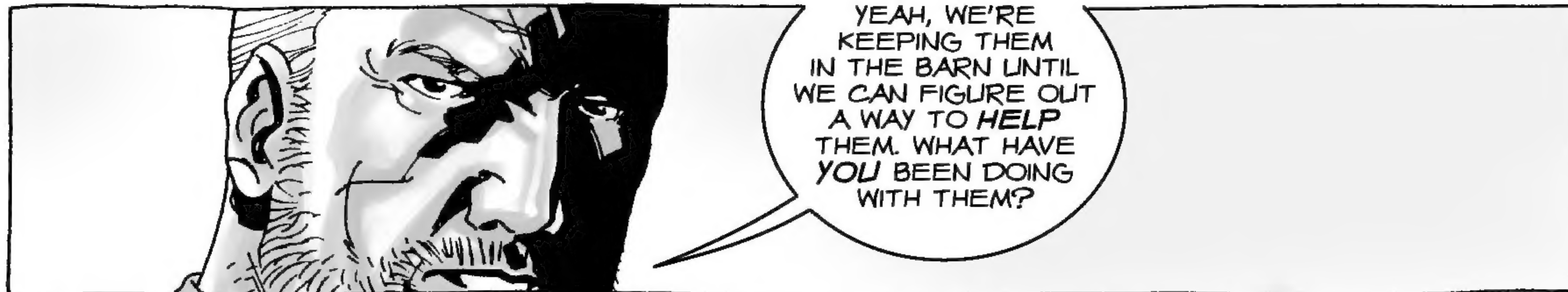
"DEAD  
ONES?!" WHAT  
DO YOU MEAN  
"DEAD  
ONES?"



YOU  
KNOW... THE  
DEAD ONES--  
ALL THESE  
PEOPLE UP AND  
WALKING AROUND  
AFTER THEY  
**SHOULDN'T** BE.  
THE ONE'S THAT  
ARE CAUSING  
ALL THIS  
**TROUBLE.**



AND  
YOU'RE  
KEEPING THOSE...  
**THINGS** IN YOUR  
BARN--ON YOUR  
PROPERTY--RIGHT  
NEXT TO WHERE  
YOU **SLEEP?**



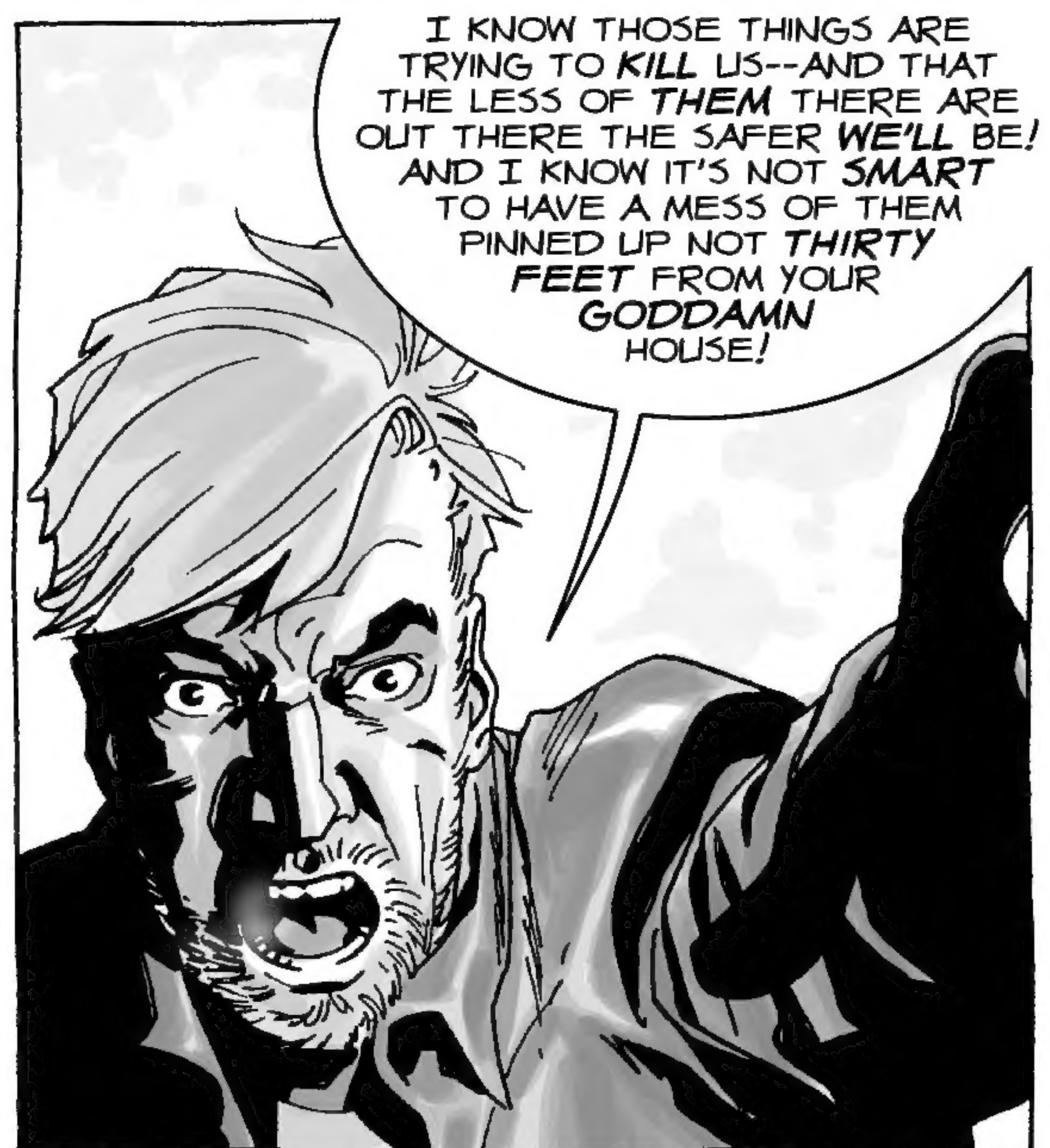
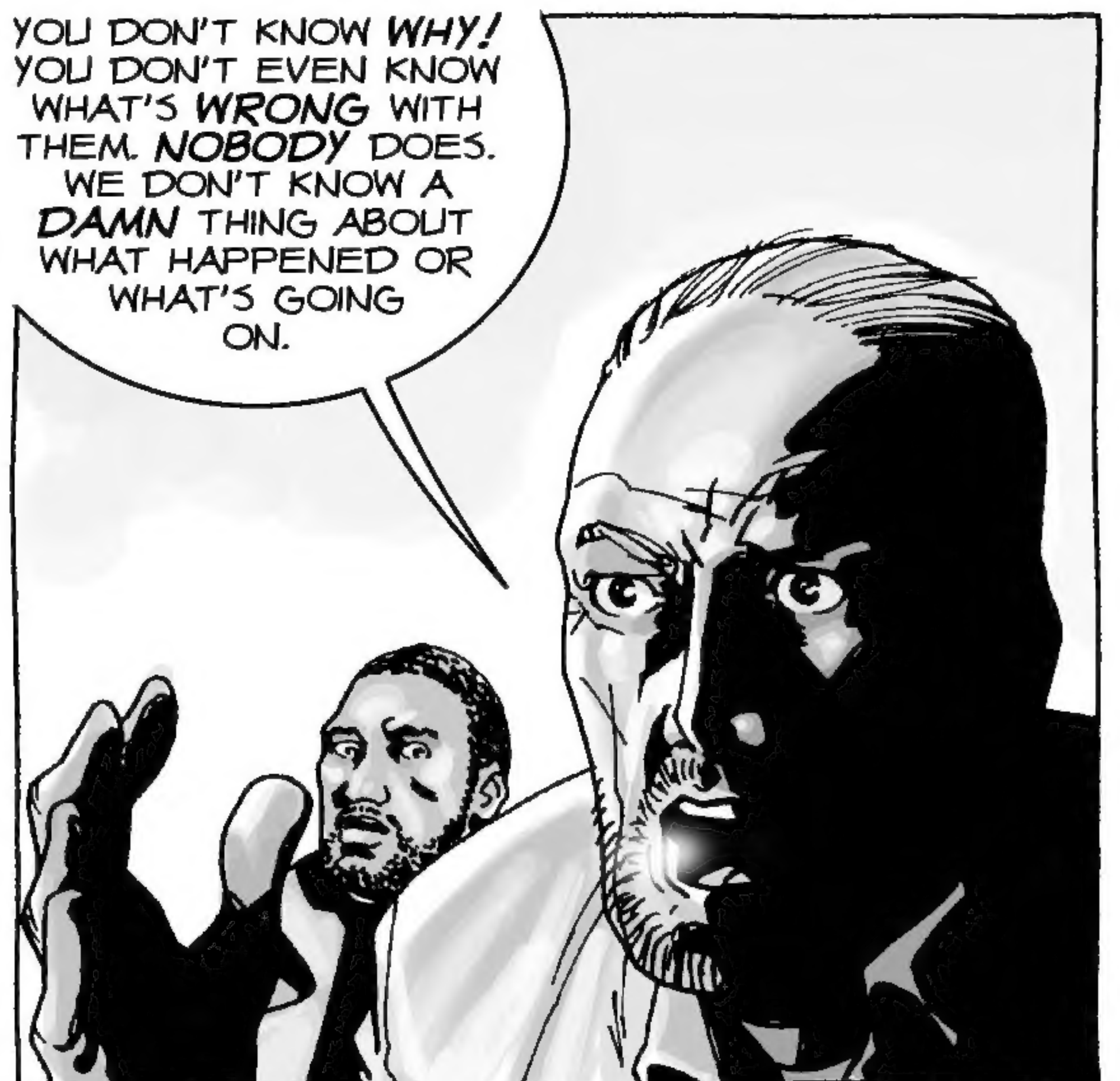
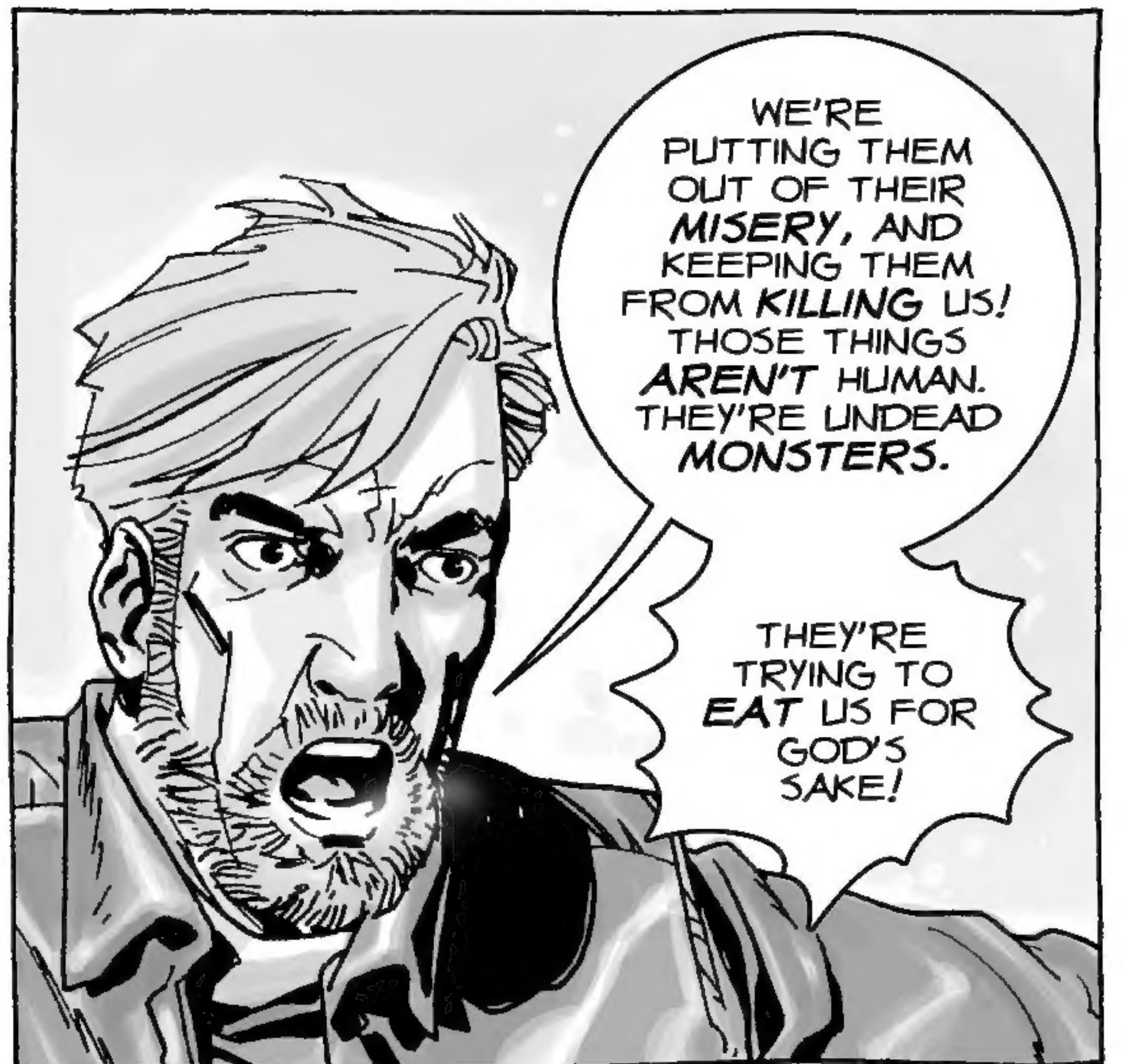
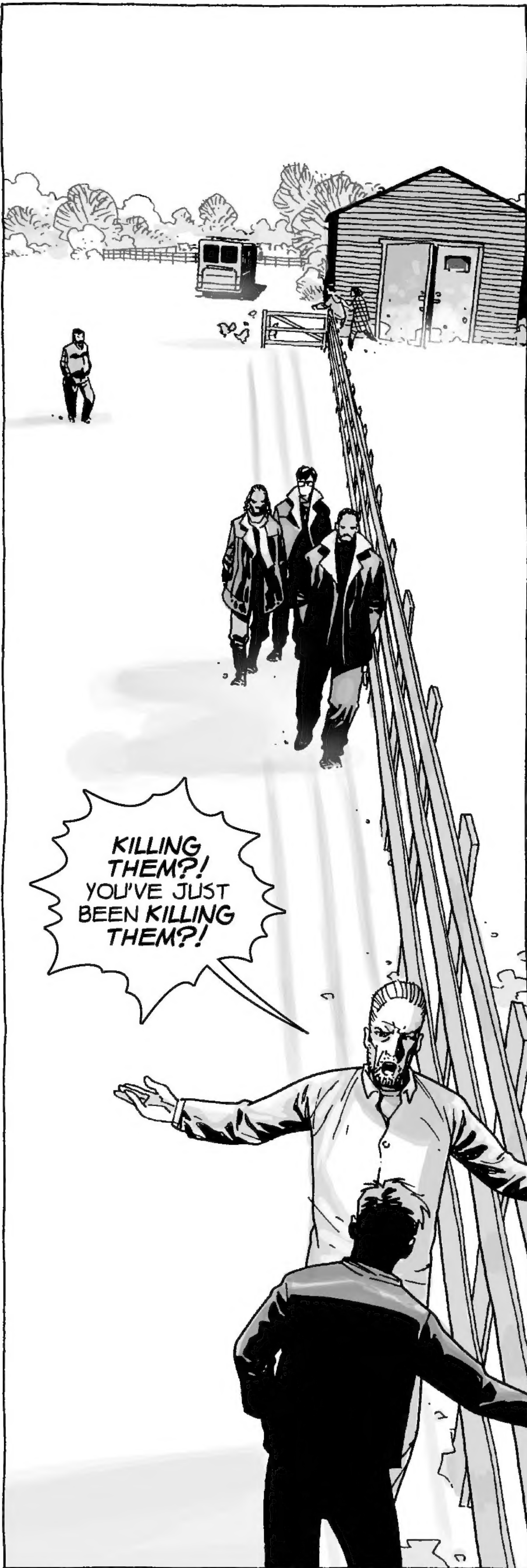
YEAH, WE'RE  
KEEPING THEM  
IN THE BARN UNTIL  
WE CAN FIGURE OUT  
A WAY TO **HELP**  
THEM. WHAT HAVE  
YOU BEEN DOING  
WITH THEM?



WHAT DO YOU  
**THINK** WE'VE BEEN  
DOING WITH THEM?  
YOU SAID YOURSELF  
THAT THEY **SHOULD**  
BE **DEAD**. SHOOTING  
THEM IN THE  
HEAD **FIXES**  
THAT.

WE'VE  
BEEN  
**KILLING**  
THEM.









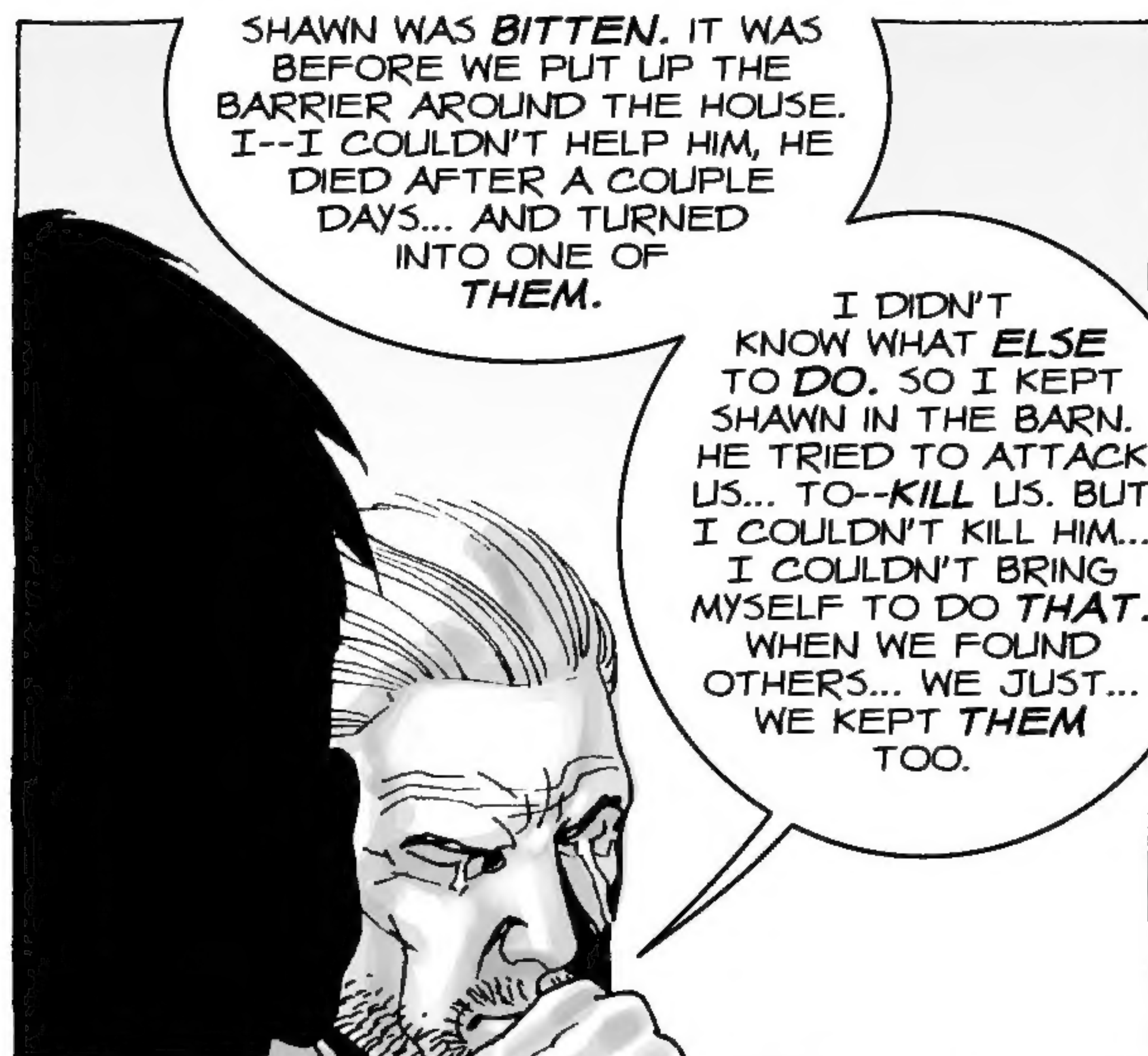
WE SHOULD GO IN THAT BARN RIGHT NOW AND **SHOOT** EVERY **GODDAMN** ONE OF THEM IN THE HEAD. IT'S NOT **SAFE** FOR THEM TO BE HERE! WE NEED TO KILL **THEM** BEFORE THEY KILL **US**!



MY **SON** IS IN THERE, **GOD DAMMIT!**

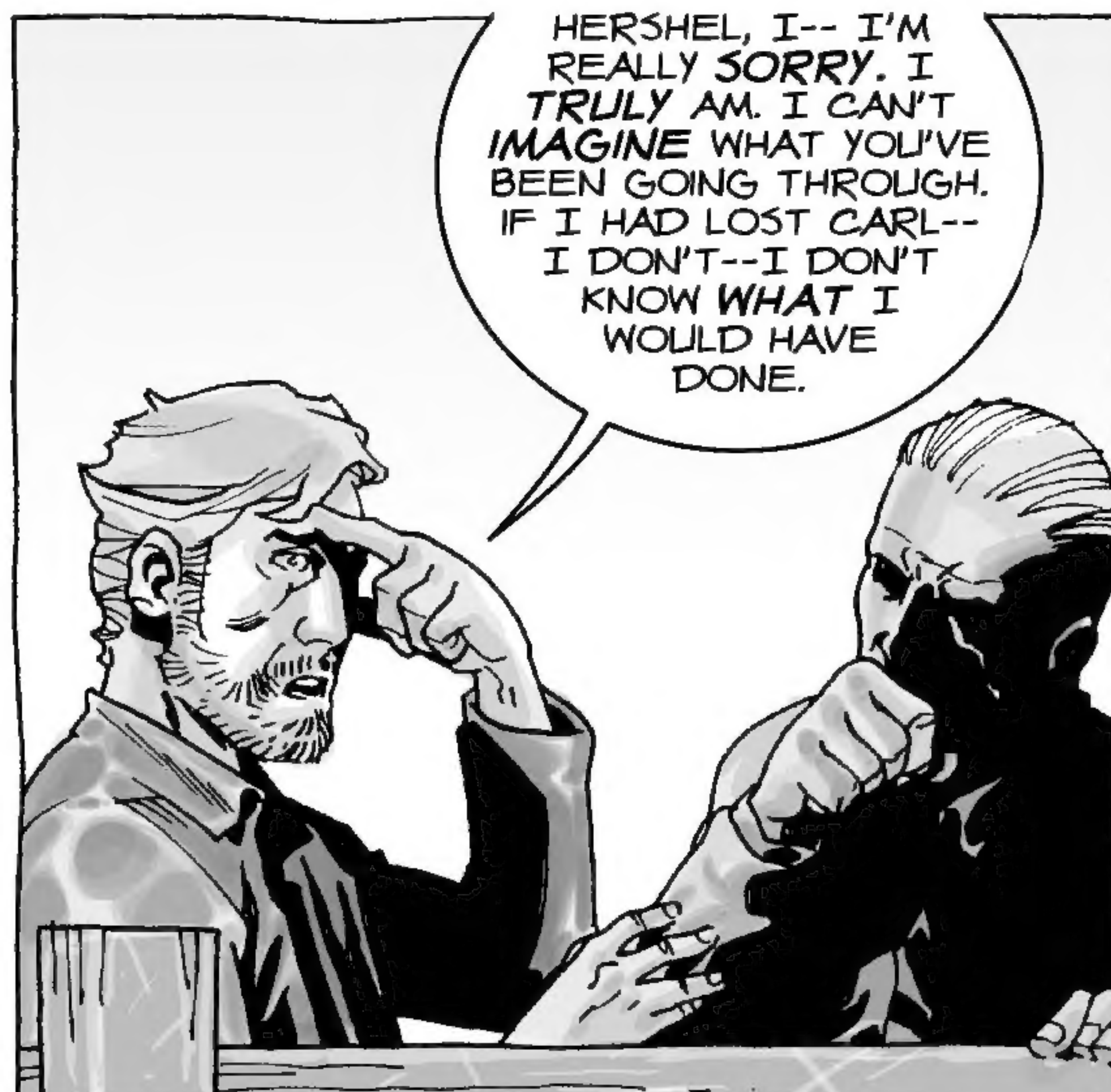


YOUR SON?



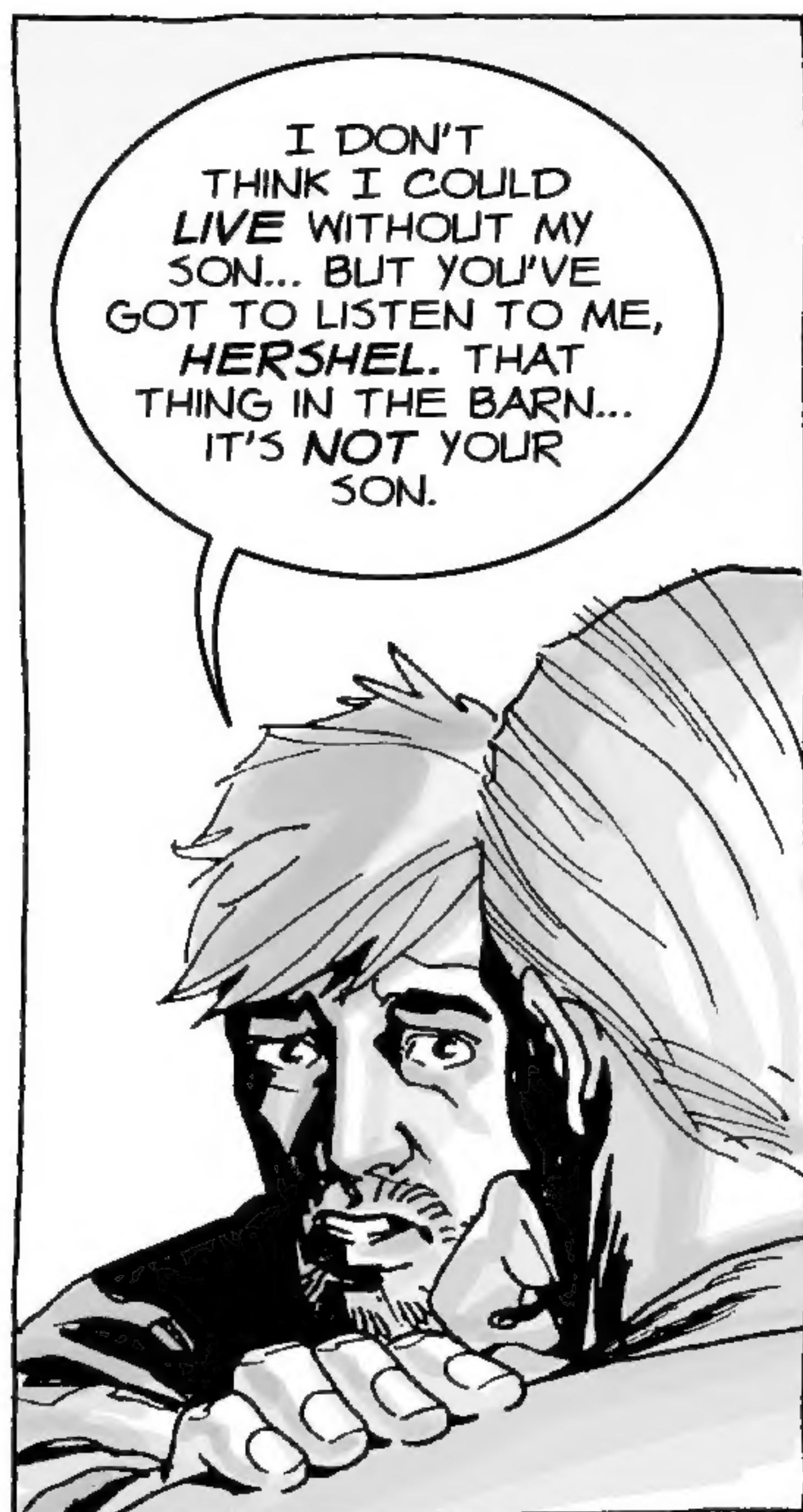
SHAWN WAS **BITTEN**. IT WAS BEFORE WE PUT UP THE BARRIER AROUND THE HOUSE. I--I COULDN'T HELP HIM, HE DIED AFTER A COUPLE DAYS... AND TURNED INTO ONE OF **THEM**.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT **ELSE** TO **DO**. SO I KEPT SHAWN IN THE BARN. HE TRIED TO ATTACK US... TO--**KILL** US. BUT I COULDN'T KILL HIM... I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO **THAT**. WHEN WE FOUND OTHERS... WE JUST... WE KEPT **THEM** TOO.



HERSHEL, I-- I'M REALLY **SORRY**. I **TRULY** AM. I CAN'T **IMAGINE** WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH. IF I HAD LOST CARL-- I DON'T--I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** I WOULD HAVE DONE.



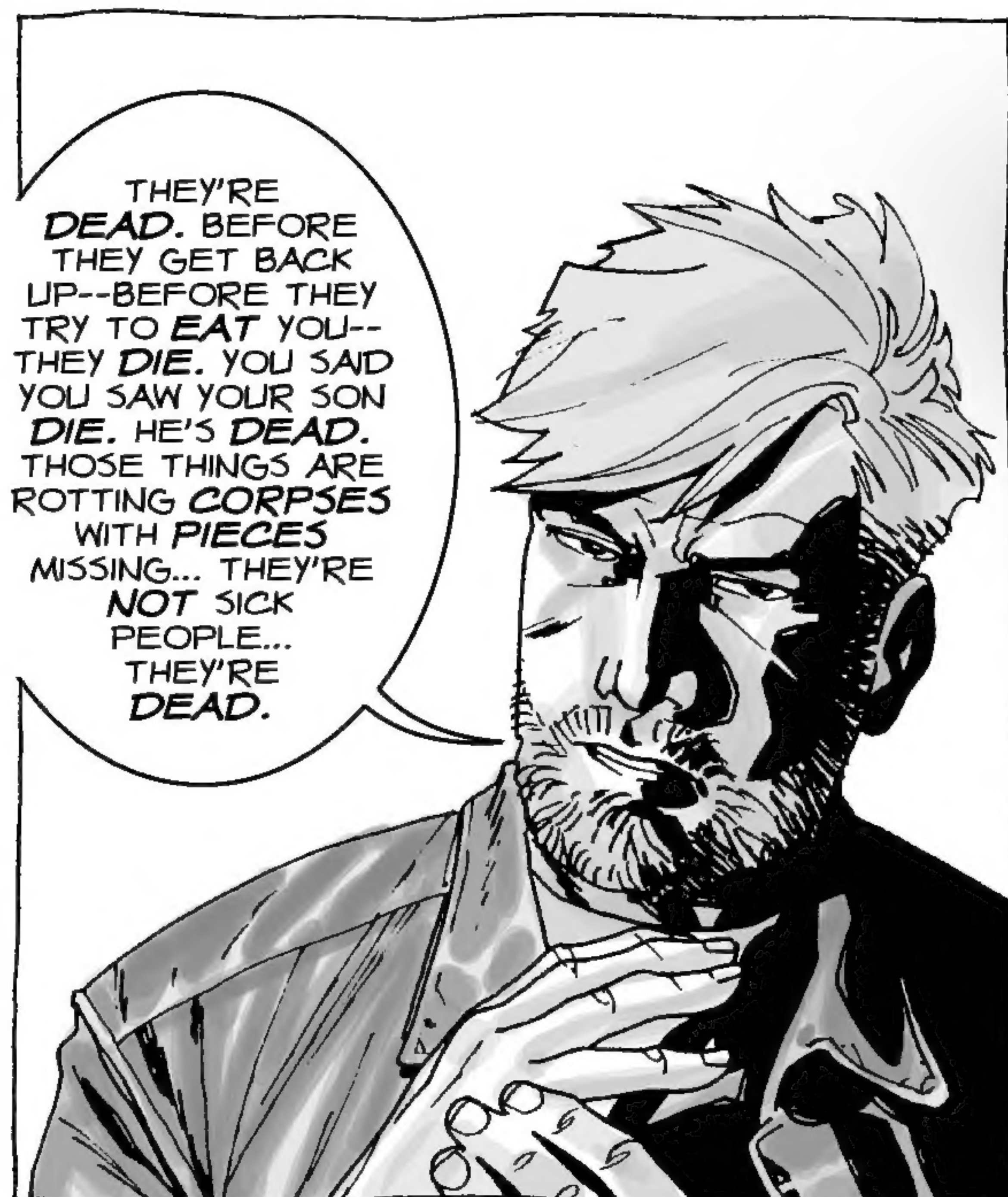


NOT MY SON?! WHAT MADE **YOU** SUCH A **GODDAMN** EXPERT?! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT **YOU** BUT THE ZOMBIES AROUND **HERE** DIDN'T COME WITH A **FUCKING** INSTRUCTION MANUAL!

FOR ALL **WE** KNOW THESE THINGS COULD WAKE UP **TOMORROW**, HEAL UP, AND BE COMPLETELY **NORMAL** AGAIN!

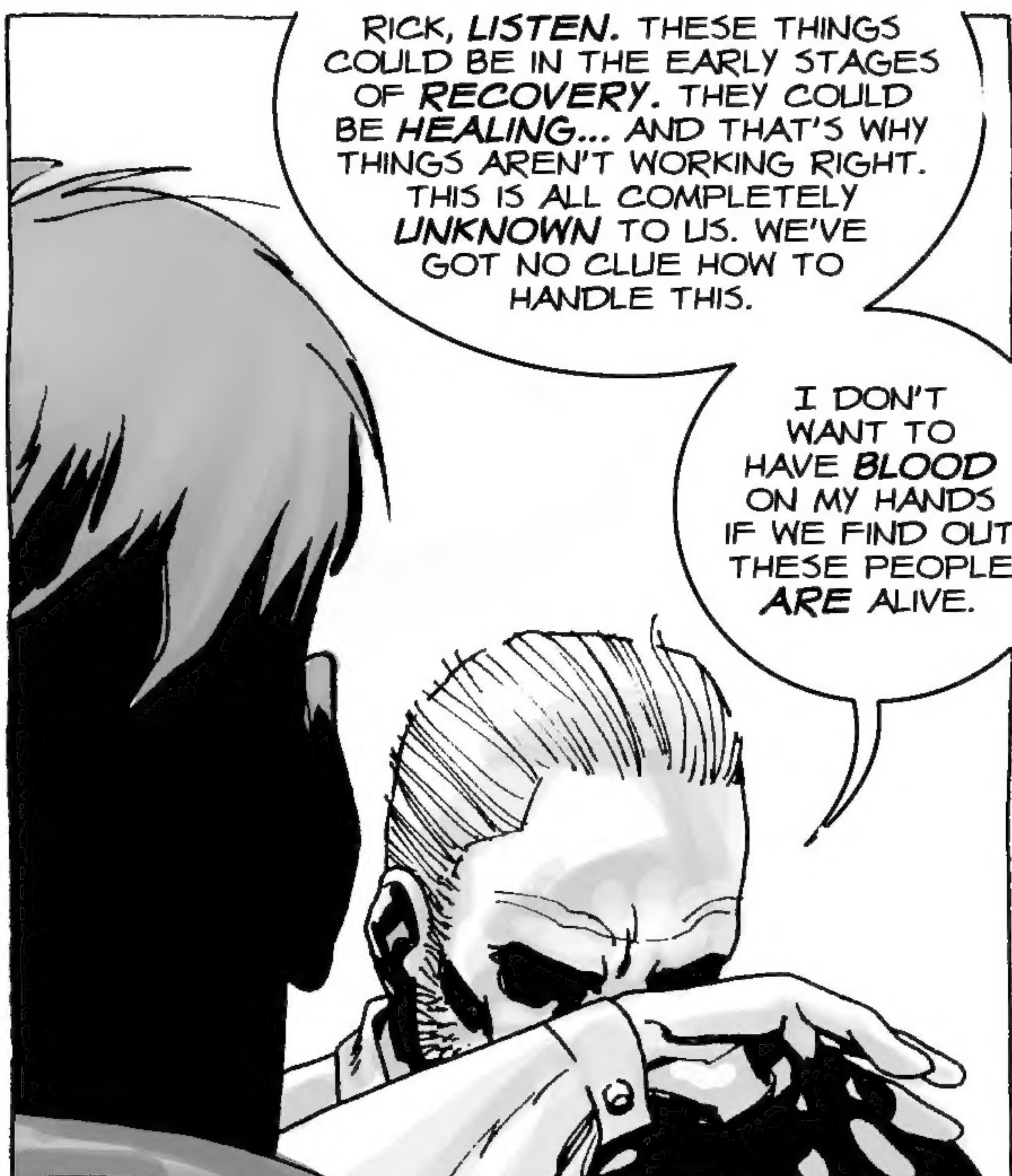
WE DON'T KNOW A **GODDAMN** THING ABOUT THEM. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE **THINKING**--WHAT THEY'RE **FEELING**. WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A **DISEASE** OR SIDE EFFECTS OF SOME KIND OF **CHEMICAL** WARFARE! WE DON'T KNOW **SHIT!**

WE JUST DON'T **KNOW!** YOU COULD HAVE BEEN **MURDERING** ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU "PUT OUT OF THEIR MISERY."

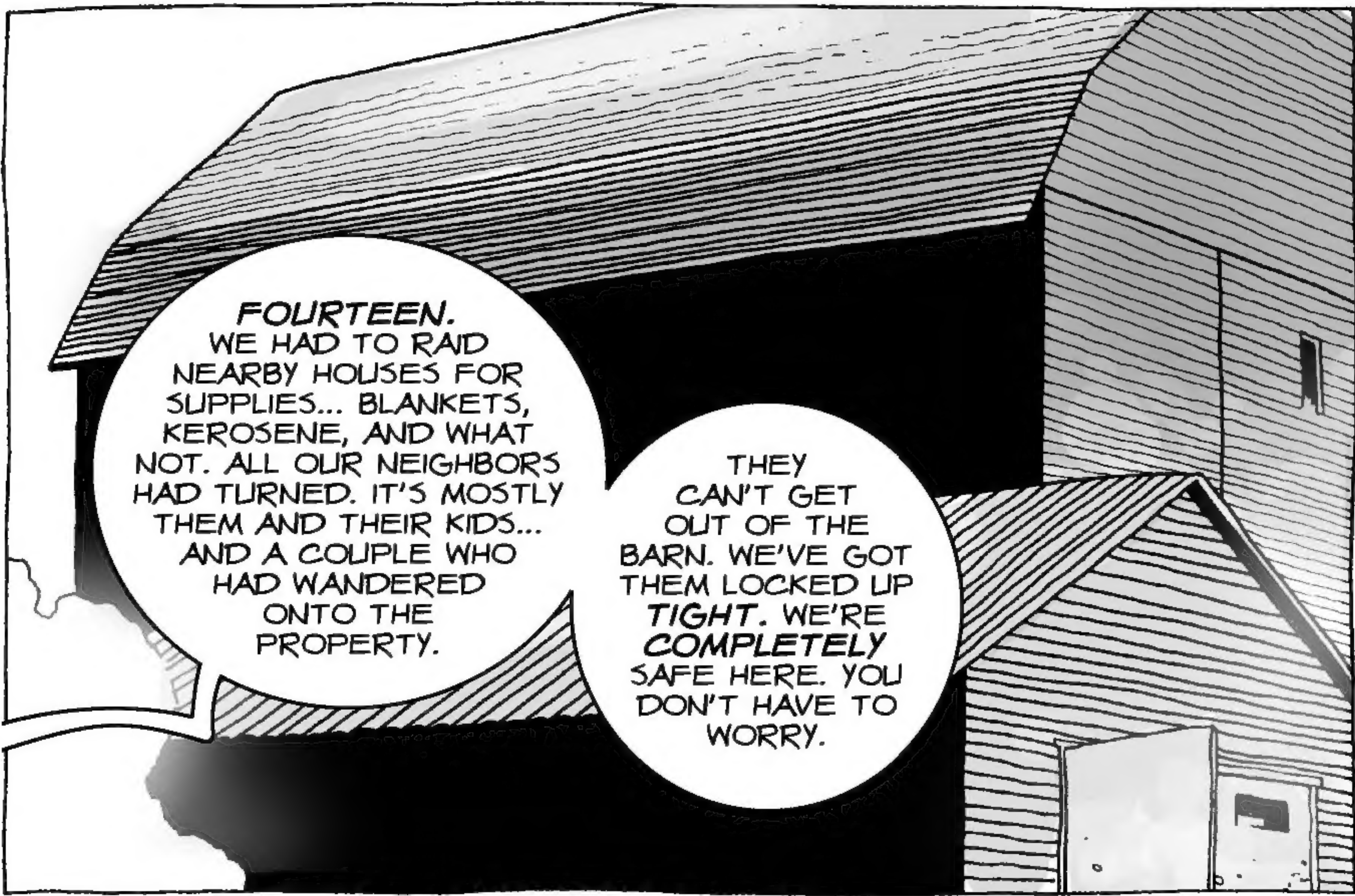
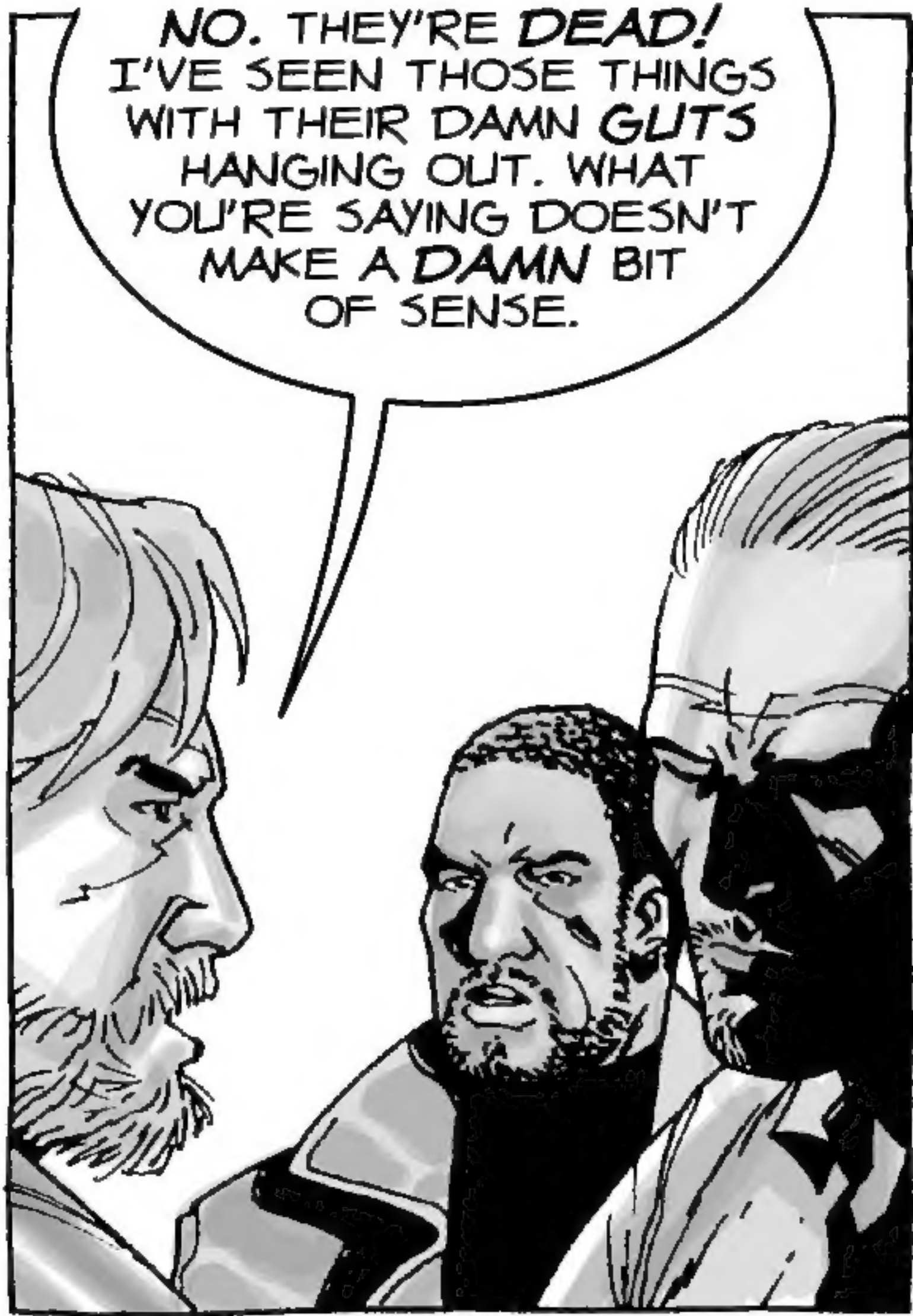


RICK, **LISTEN**. THESE THINGS COULD BE IN THE **EARLY** STAGES OF **RECOVERY**. THEY COULD BE **HEALING**... AND THAT'S WHY THINGS AREN'T WORKING RIGHT. THIS IS ALL COMPLETELY **UNKNOWN** TO US. WE'VE GOT NO **CLUE** HOW TO **HANDLE** THIS.

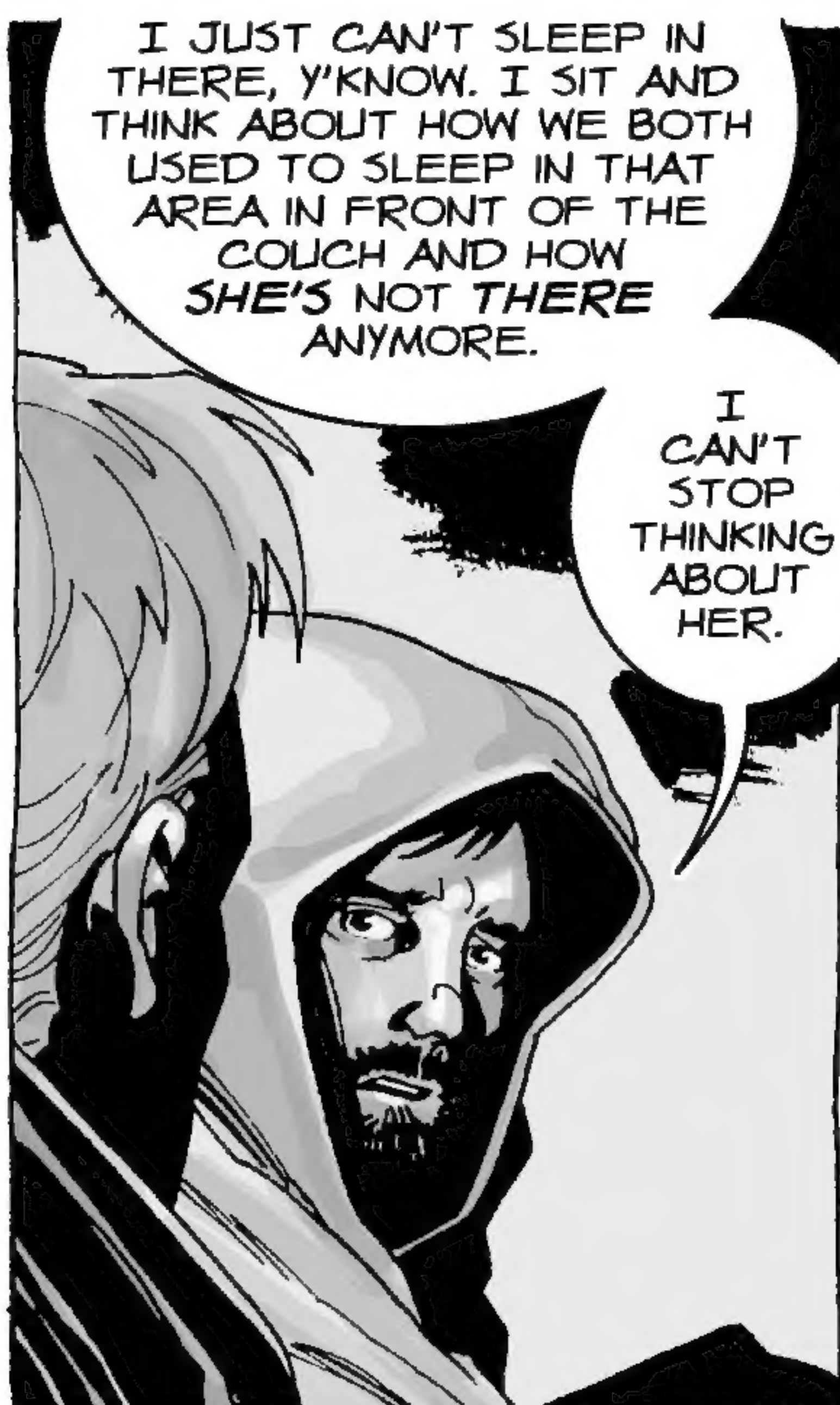
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE **BLOOD** ON MY HANDS IF WE FIND OUT THESE PEOPLE **ARE** ALIVE.













I DON'T  
KNOW MAN...  
SOMETIMES...  
I THINK ABOUT  
HOW MUCH I  
WANT TO **DIE**  
AND IT--  
**SCARES**  
ME.

I LOVE  
MY BOYS... I  
**KNOW** THEY  
NEED ME BUT  
SOMETIMES I  
JUST THINK  
IT'D BE  
**EASIER**,  
Y'KNOW.

YOU'VE GOT TO PULL IT  
TOGETHER, ALLEN. YOU'VE  
GOT EVERY **RIGHT** TO BE  
**SAD**, MAKE NO MISTAKE  
ABOUT IT... BUT YOU'VE  
GOT TO BE THERE FOR  
YOUR **SONS**. THEY  
**NEED** YOU.

YOU  
DON'T--

OH,  
UH--**HEY**,  
GUYS. I  
COULDN'T  
**SLEEP**. I'M  
COMING OUT  
TO GET  
SOME...  
**AIR**.

CAREFUL,  
GLENN. IT'S  
PRETTY  
**DARK** OUT  
TONIGHT.

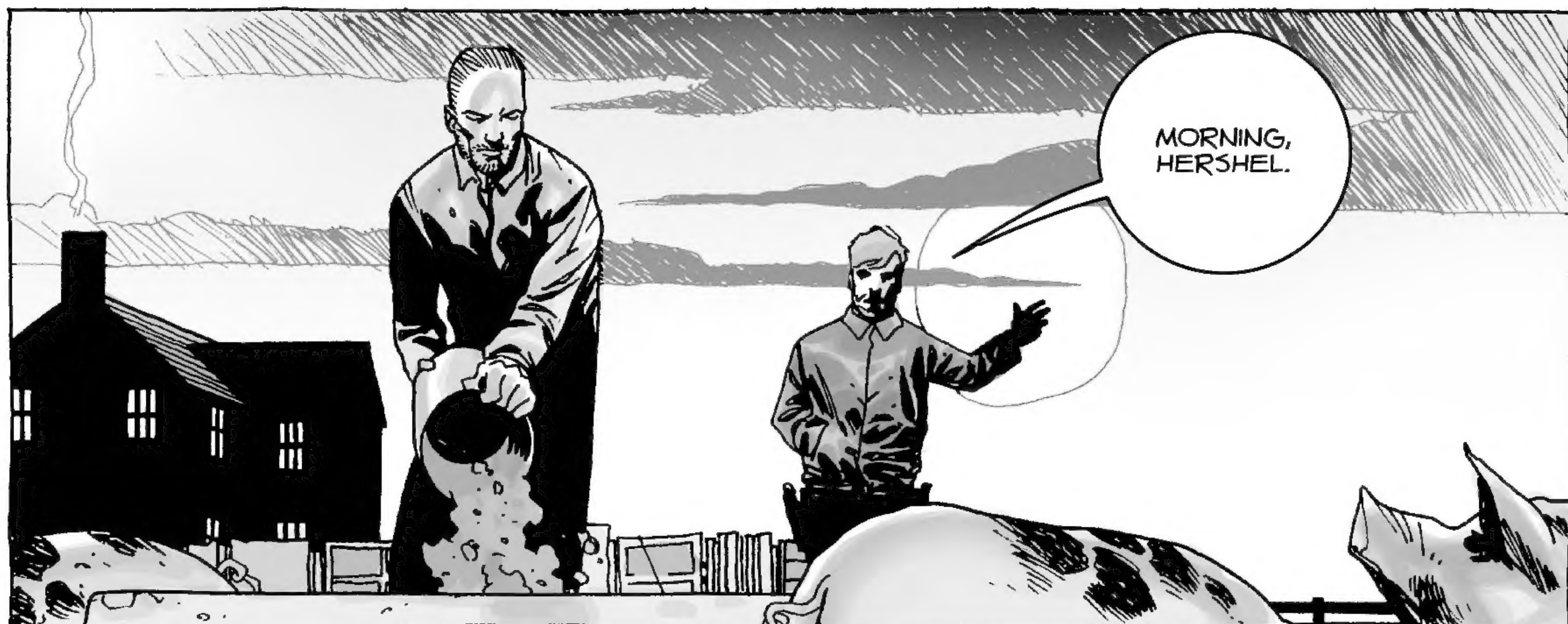
DON'T WORRY,  
RICK. I WON'T  
WANDER OFF  
TOO FAR.

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING, RICK.  
IT'S JUST  
**HARD**.  
EVERYTHING'S  
SO DAMN  
**HARD**.

I  
KNOW,  
ALLEN...  
**NOTHING'S**  
EASY  
ANYMORE.

NOTHING.





MORNING,  
HERSHEL.

OH, HEY.  
GOOD  
MORNING,  
YOURSELF.

DID  
YOUR CREW  
SLEEP  
OKAY LAST  
NIGHT?

YEAH, THEY HAD  
A LITTLE EXTRA  
ROOM IN THE RV  
SINCE LORI AND  
I STAYED WITH  
CARL IN YOUR  
HOUSE LAST  
NIGHT.

THEY  
GOT AS  
MUCH SLEEP  
AS EVER, I  
MEAN. WE DON'T  
GET MUCH  
SLEEP ANY  
MORE, ANY  
OF US.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW YOU  
PEOPLE MADE IT OUT AT  
THAT CAMP OF YOURS. I  
FEEL INSECURE ENOUGH  
SLEEPING IN MY  
HOUSE.

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
MEAN. I HAVEN'T  
HAD A GOOD  
NIGHT'S SLEEP IN  
QUITE SOME  
TIME.

LISTEN, MAN... I WANTED  
TO APOLOGIZE FOR LAST  
NIGHT. I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN  
TO JUMP YOUR SHIT LIKE THAT.  
I'VE BEEN A LITTLE ON  
EDGE SINCE CARL GOT  
SHOT AND I WAS WAY  
OUT OF LINE.

I UNDERSTAND.  
WE'RE ALL A  
LITTLE ON EDGE,  
IT'S ONLY  
NATURAL, I  
DIDN'T TAKE  
OFFENSE.

STILL, I JUST WANTED  
TO LET YOU KNOW THAT  
I REALLY DO APPRECIATE  
ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR  
CARL, AND YOU  
ALLOWING US TO  
STAY HERE.









HEY,  
ALLEN.

CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT? I  
HAVE **NOTHING** TO SAY TO  
YOU. YOU WANT TO RUN YOUR  
MOUTH AND GIVE PEOPLE  
ADVICE ON THINGS YOU  
**OBVIOUSLY** DON'T KNOW  
SHIT ABOUT... GO DO  
IT SOMEWHERE  
ELSE.

NOW HOLD  
ON JUST A  
DAMN--

I'M  
**SORRY**,  
ALLEN.  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
PISS YOU  
OFF.

NO, DALE.  
IT'S OKAY.  
LET IT  
GO.

YOU  
COULD  
HAVE  
**FOOLED**  
ME.







SOPHIA'S  
IN THERE  
TALKING WITH CARL  
AGAIN. I SWEAR... A  
FEW MORE YEARS AND  
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
TO KEEP AN **EYE** ON  
THOSE TWO. THEY'RE  
GETTING ALONG A  
LITTLE **TOO** WELL  
FOR THEIR  
AGE.

HEY,  
WHERE'D  
YOU GET  
THAT?



OH, THE **BOOK**? HERSEL'S OLDEST  
DAUGHTER, LACEY HAS **QUITE** THE  
COLLECTION. I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW  
MUCH I **MISSED** READING. IT'S  
FUNNY HOW WE DON'T REALLY  
REALIZE THE THINGS WE'RE  
MISSING.

SPEAK  
FOR  
YOURSELF...  
I'D **KILL**  
FOR A VIKINGS  
GAME AND I'VE  
BEEN THINKING  
ABOUT THAT  
NONSTOP FOR  
WEEKS.

I HEAR YOU. I'D LOVE  
TO KNOW HOW THE  
RAIDERS ARE DOING.  
IF THERE'S **ANY** TEAM  
THAT COULD SURVIVE  
THIS... IT'S  
**THEM**.

HEY,  
LISTEN...  
**CHRIS** AND  
JULIE ARE  
GOING TO BE  
SHOOTING WITH  
US LATER TODAY,  
**RIGHT?** ARE  
THEY GOING TO  
BE CARRYING  
THEIR GUNS AT  
ALL TIMES?



I DON'T KNOW, **MAN**. I WANT THEM  
TO **BE** SAFE AND **FEEL** SAFE BUT I  
DON'T THINK THEY'RE **READY** TO HAVE  
GUNS ON THEM AT ALL TIMES. MAYBE  
AFTER A FEW PRACTICE SESSIONS  
ONCE I THINK THEY'VE GOT A  
GOOD HANDLE ON THINGS... BUT  
I'M NOT EVEN SURE I'LL BE  
COMFORTABLE WITH  
IT **THEN**.

THEY'RE  
**TEENAGERS**...  
I DON'T KNOW  
**WHAT'S** GOING  
THROUGH  
THEIR HEADS.

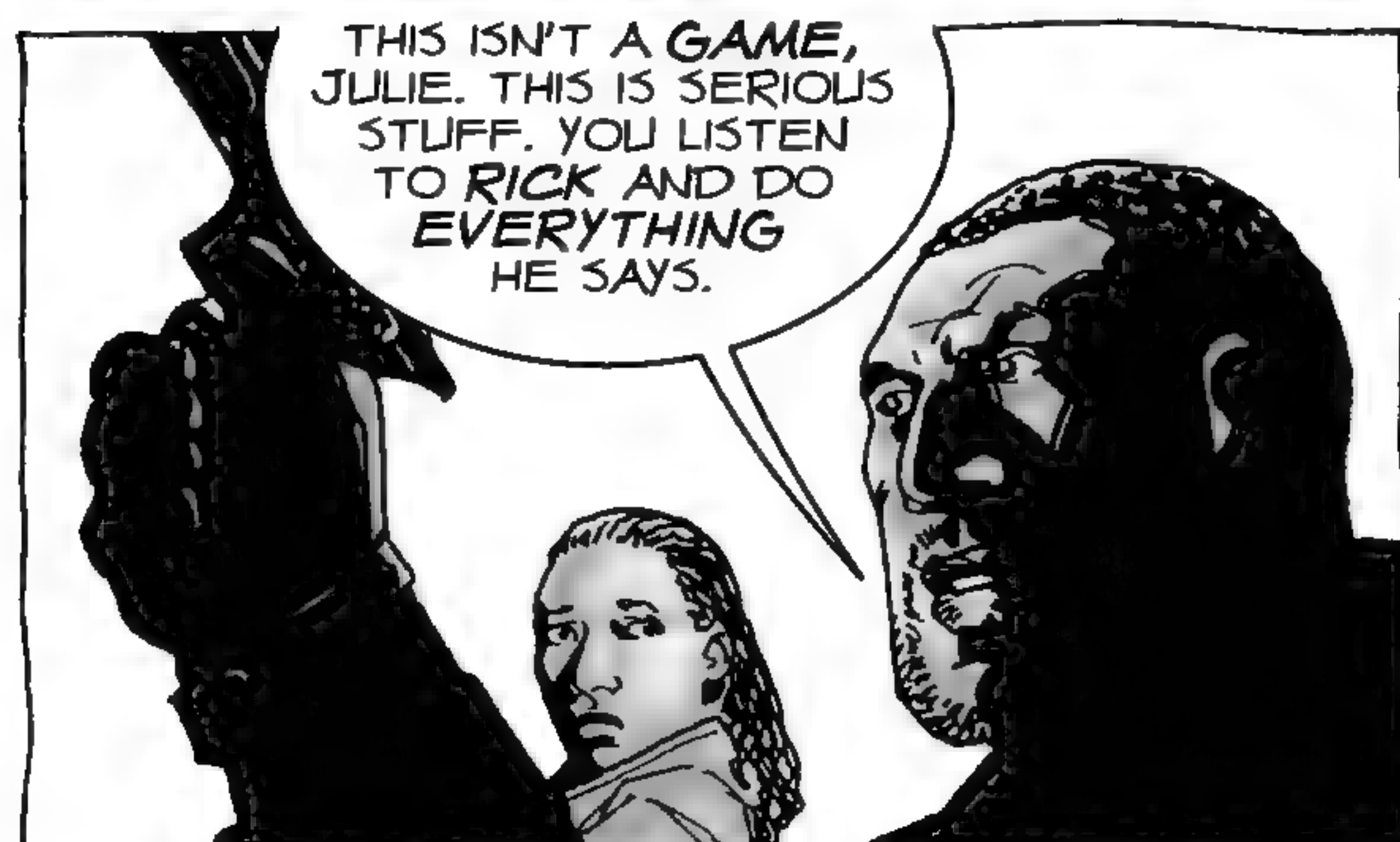
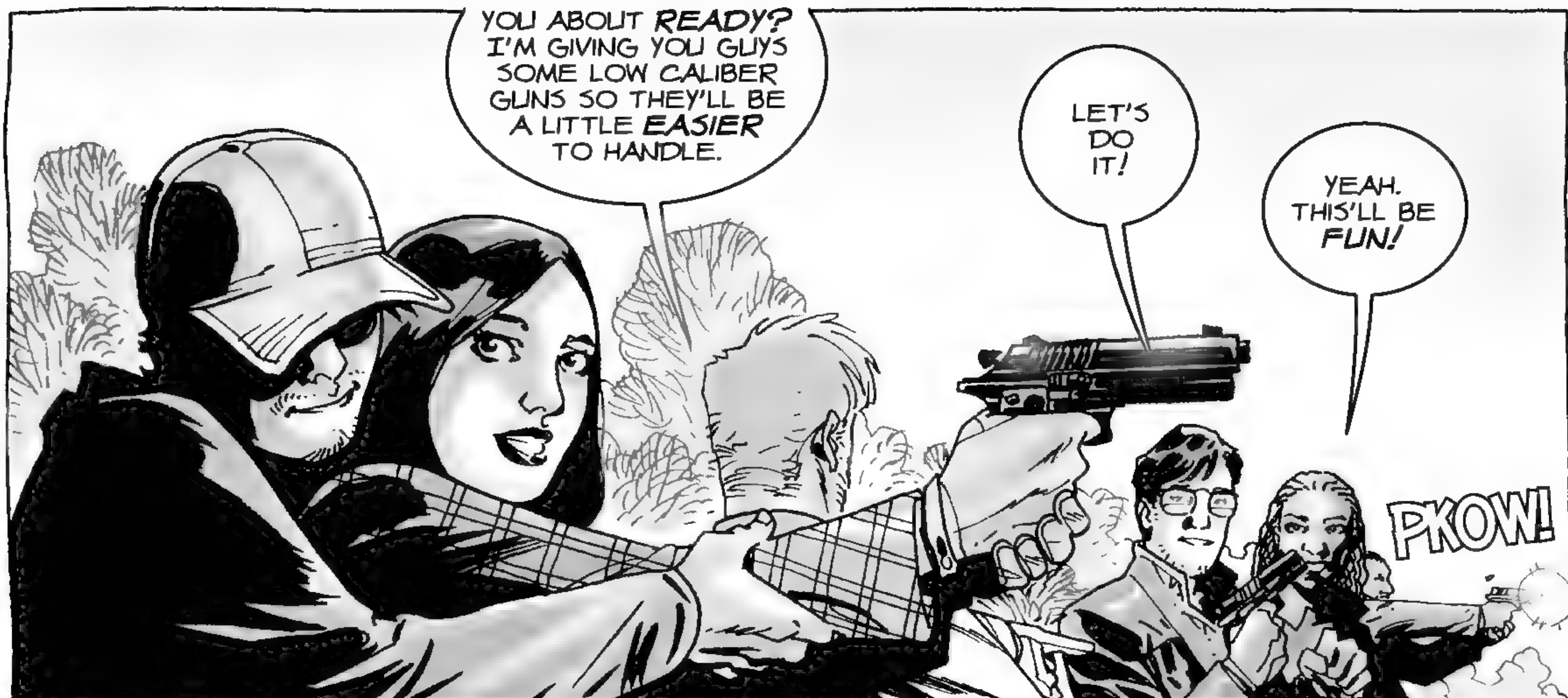


READING  
YOU **LOUD**  
AND **CLEAR**.  
SEE WHAT  
WE'VE GOT  
TO LOOK  
FORWARD TO,  
CAROL?



NOT **ME**. I'VE  
TALKED IT OVER  
WITH **SOPHIA** AND  
SHE'S SKIPPING  
RIGHT OVER TO  
HER EARLY  
TWENTIES.









WHOA, WHOA!  
STOP SHOOTING!!  
STOP RIGHT  
NOW!



WHAT'S  
THE PROBLEM,  
HERSHEL?

THE THOMPSON'S  
HOUSE IS JUST ON  
THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THAT TREE  
LINE!

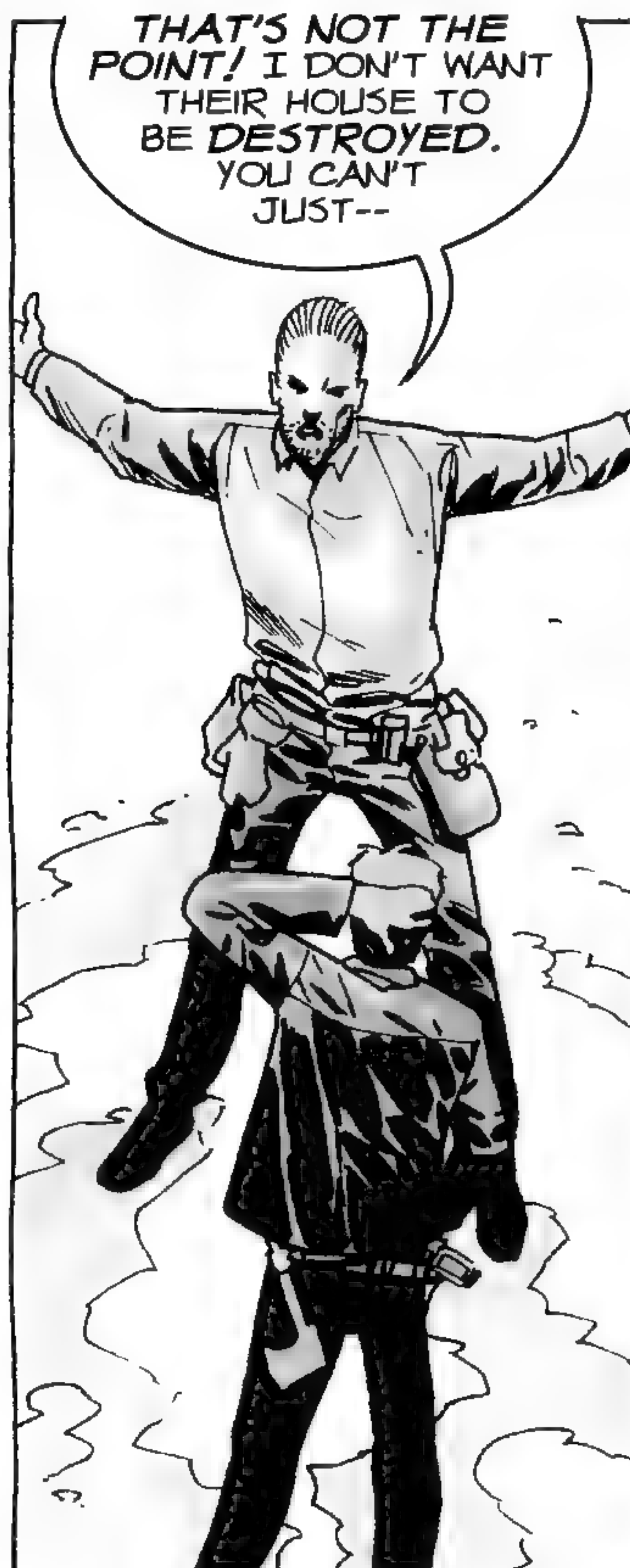
YOUR BULLETS ARE  
PROBABLY *RIPPING*  
RIGHT THROUGH  
THEIR *HOUSE*!

YOU  
*CAN'T* KEEP  
*FIRING* IN THAT  
DIRECTION!



JEEZ, SORRY  
ABOUT THAT. I  
HAD NO IDEA THE  
THOMPSON'S  
HUH? THEY,  
UH...

ARE  
THEY  
IN YOUR  
BARN?



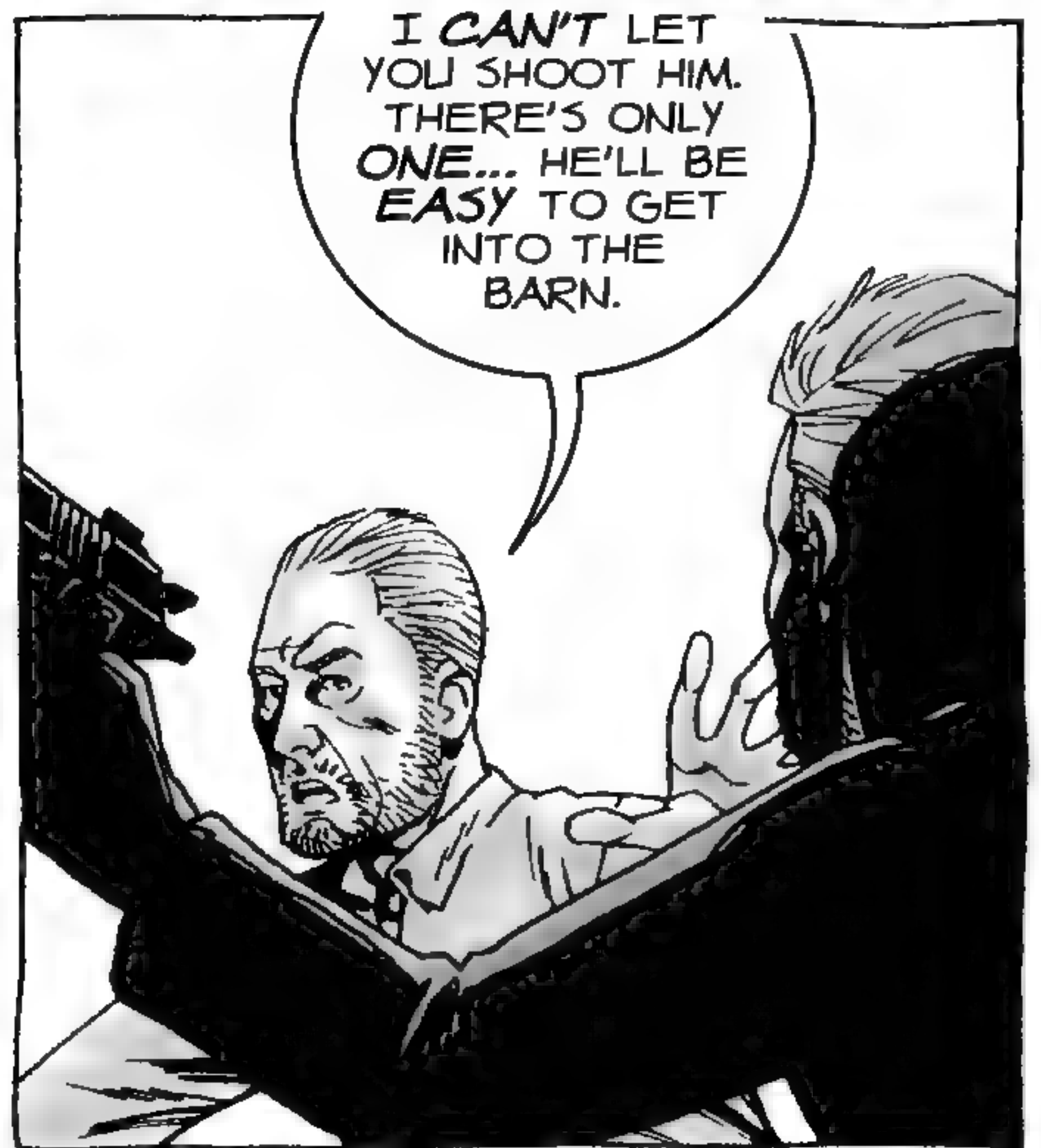
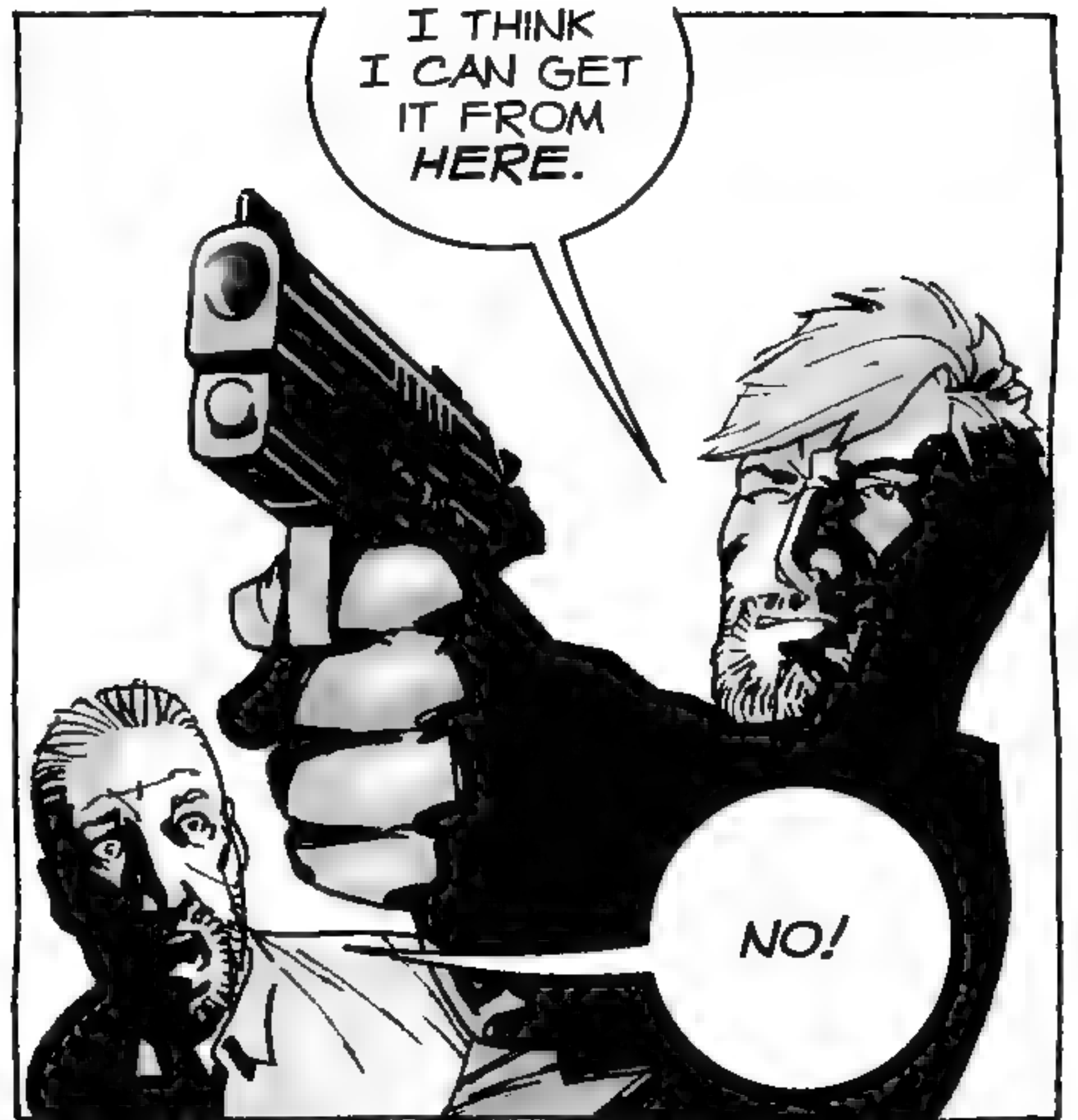
THAT'S NOT THE  
POINT! I DON'T WANT  
THEIR HOUSE TO  
BE *DESTROYED*.  
YOU CAN'T  
JUST--



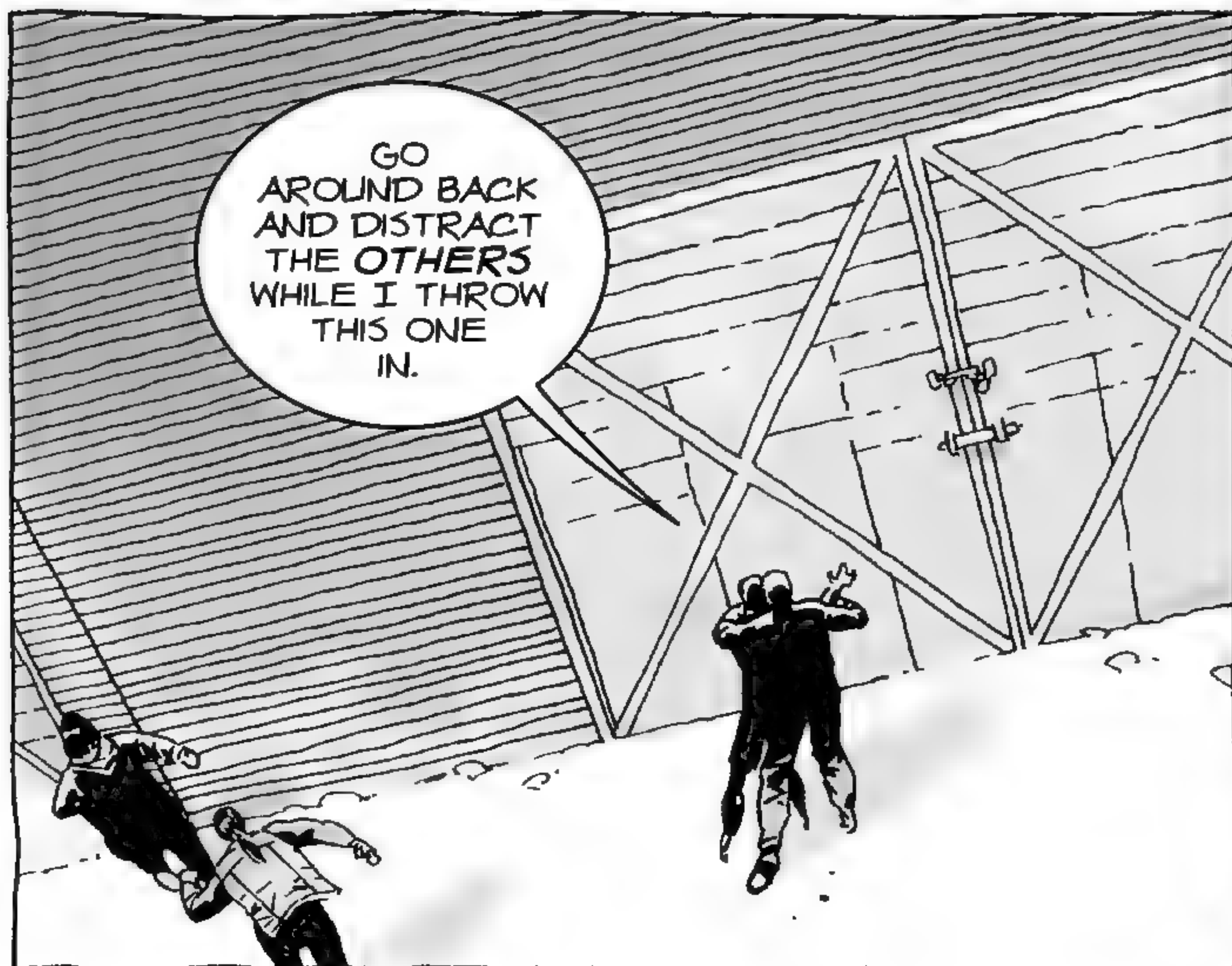
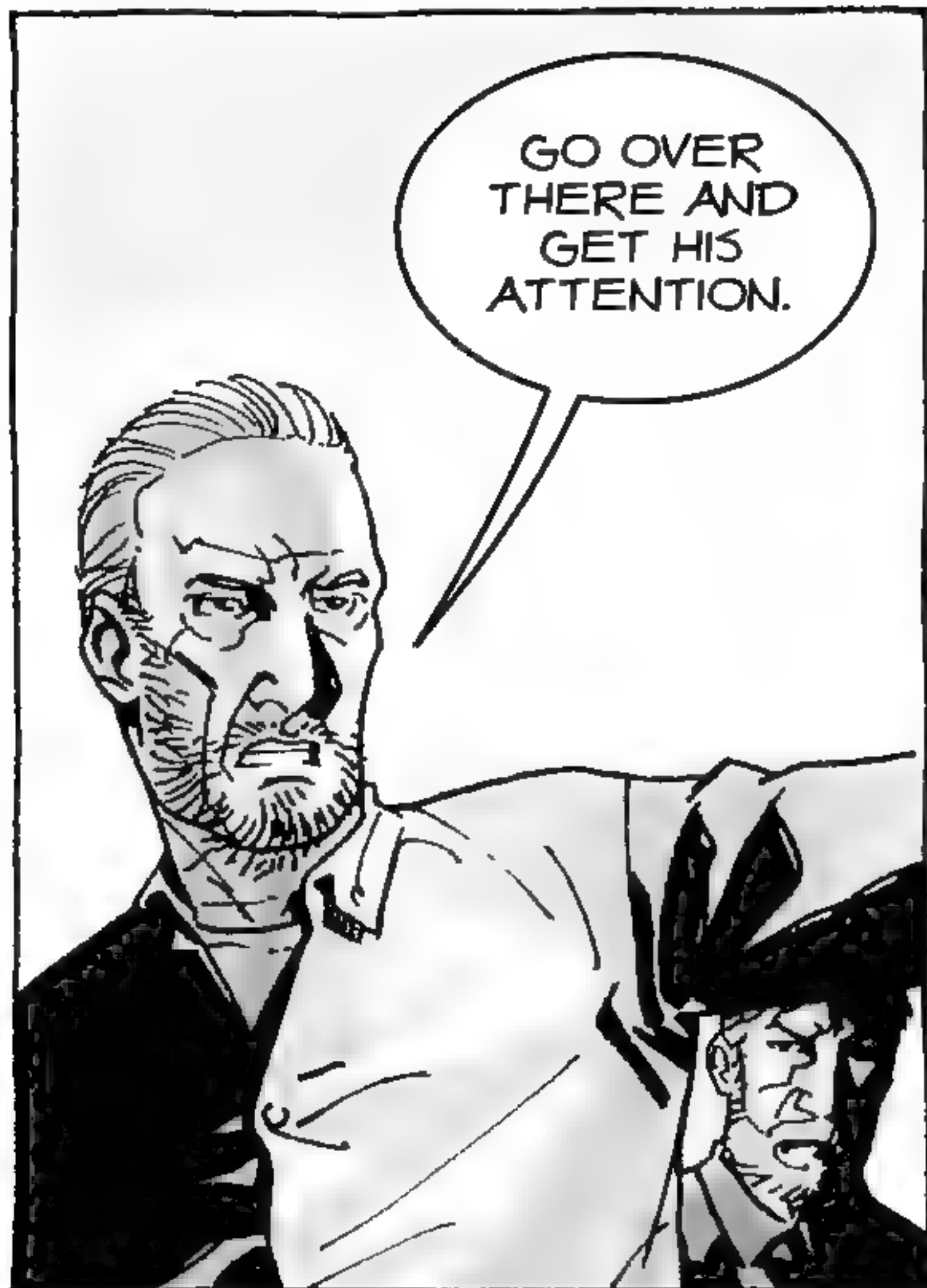
THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I MEANT.  
I DIDN'T--

WHAT?  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

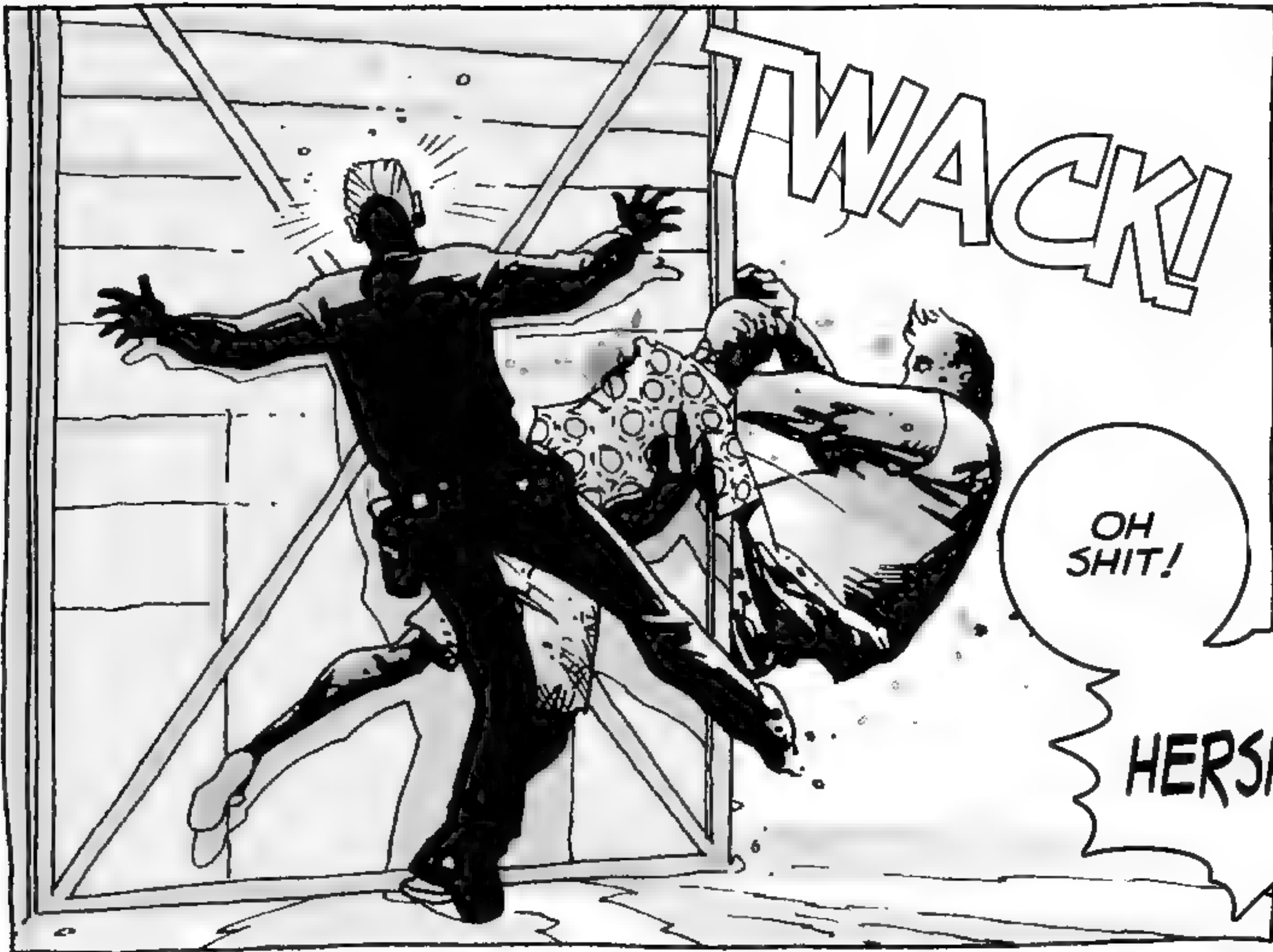












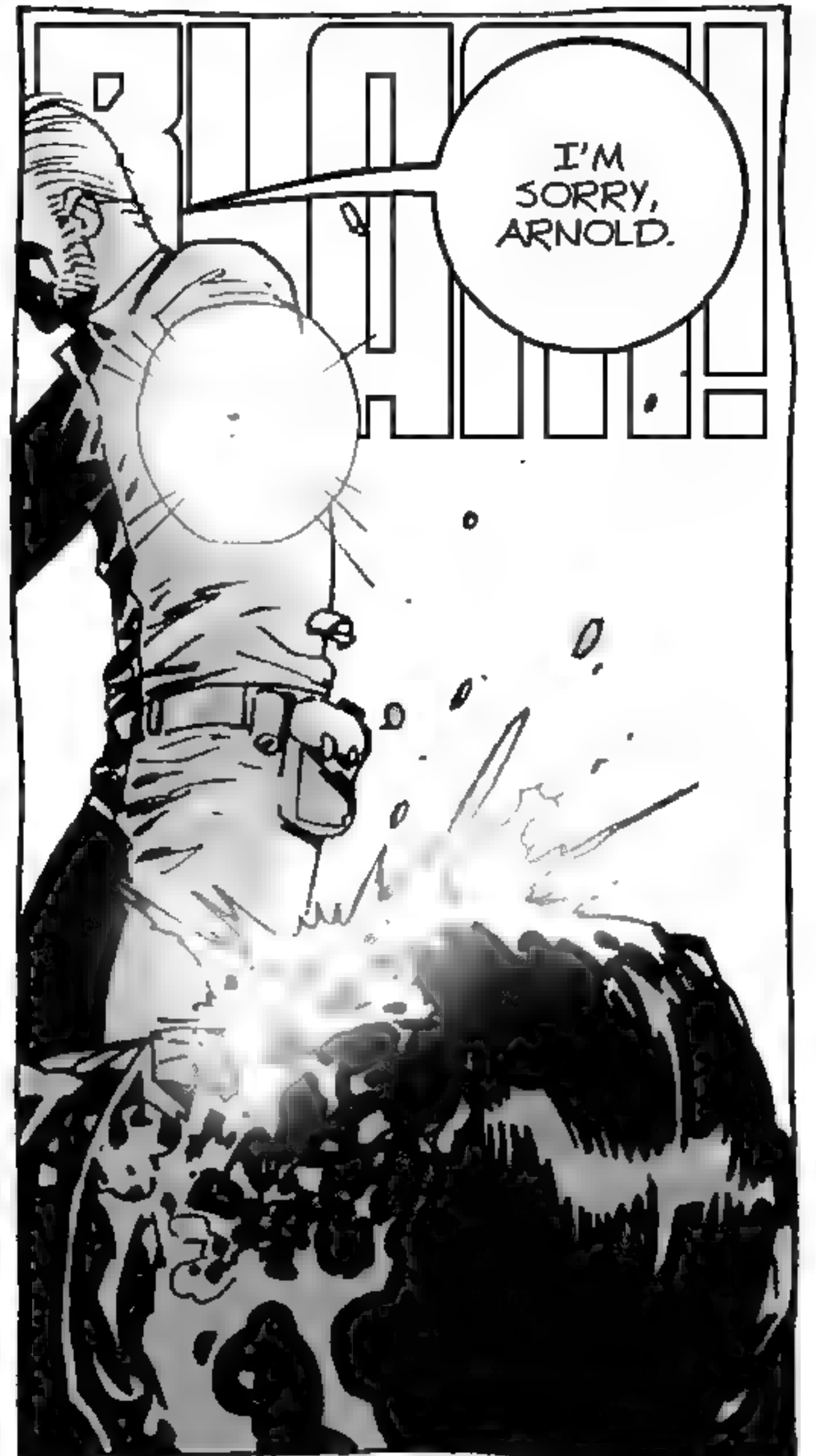




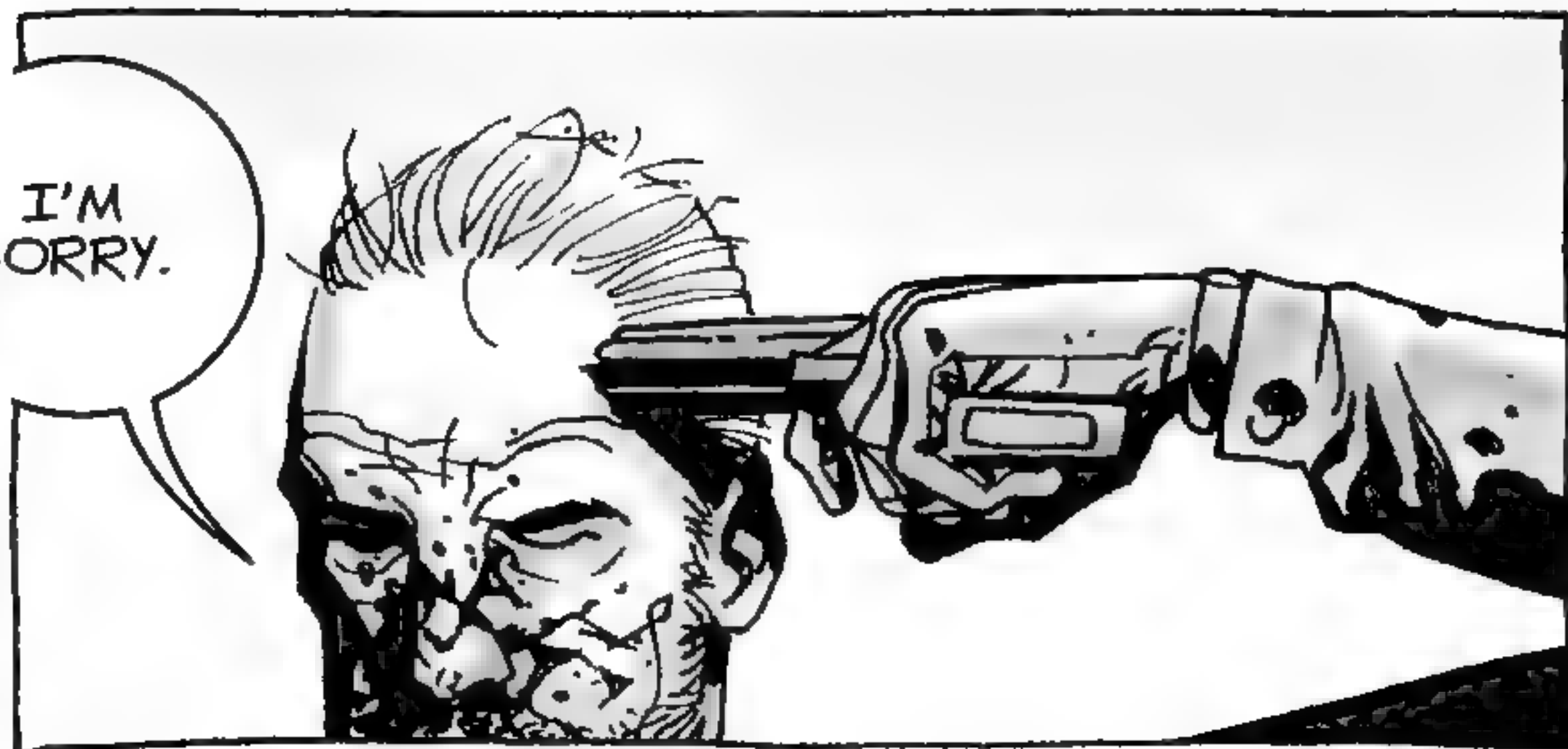




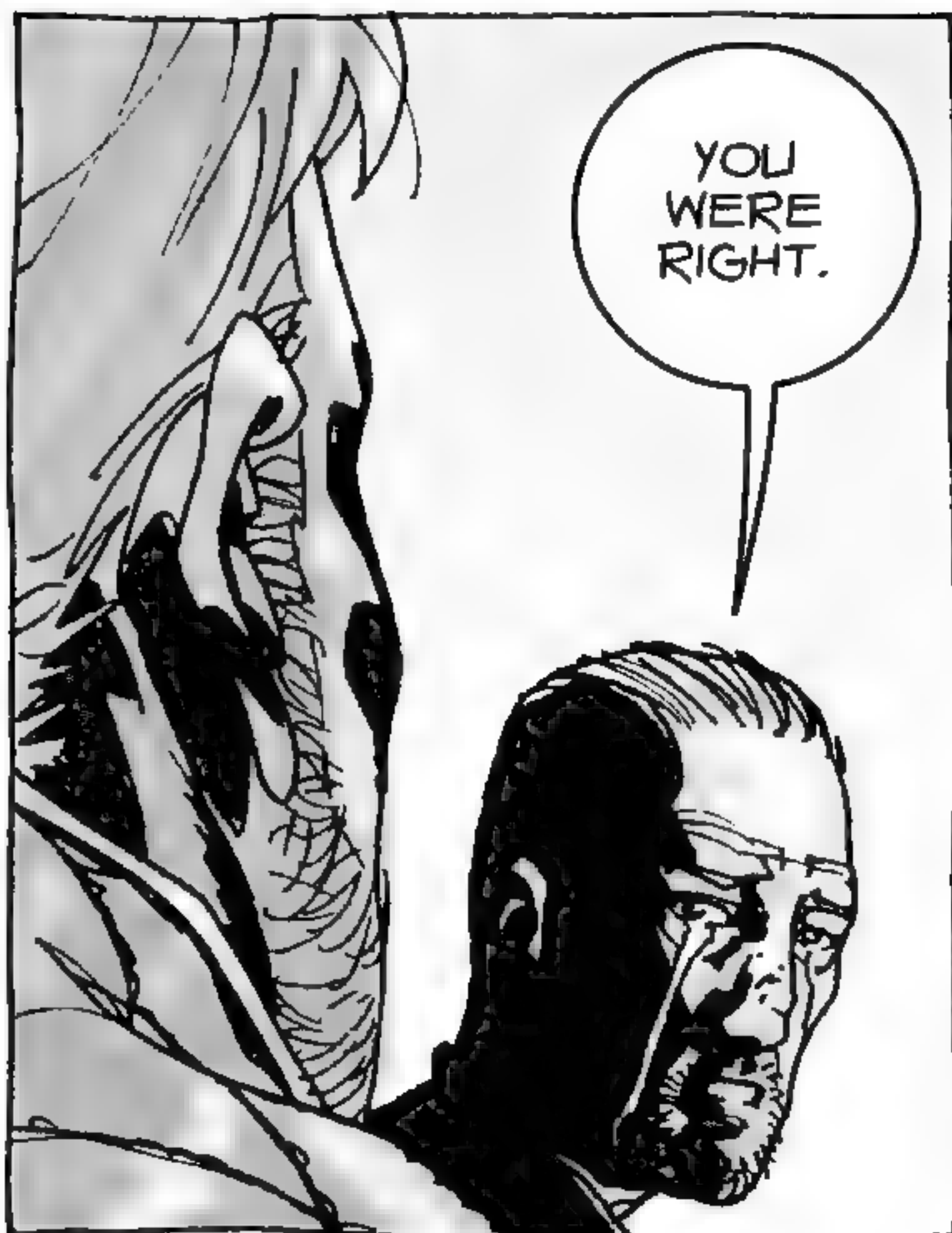
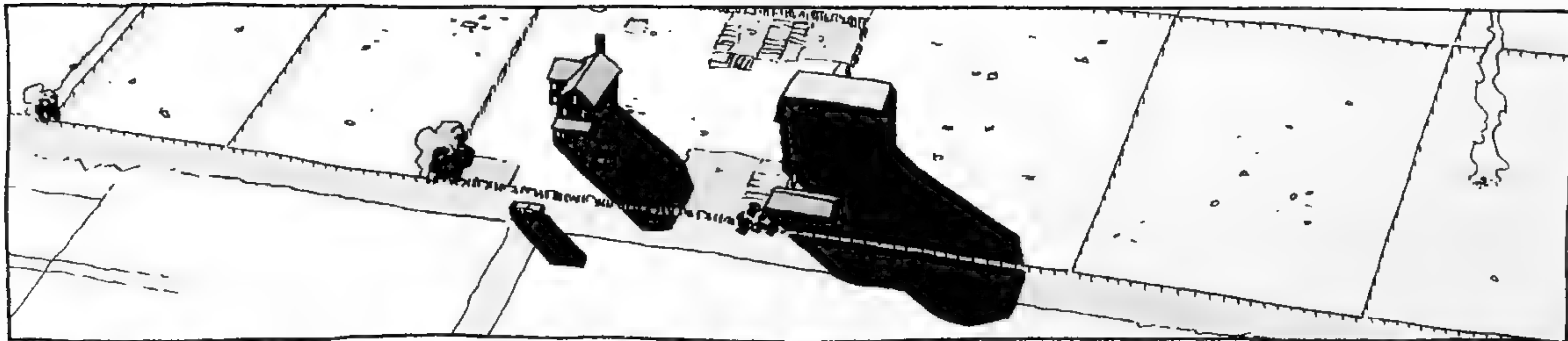








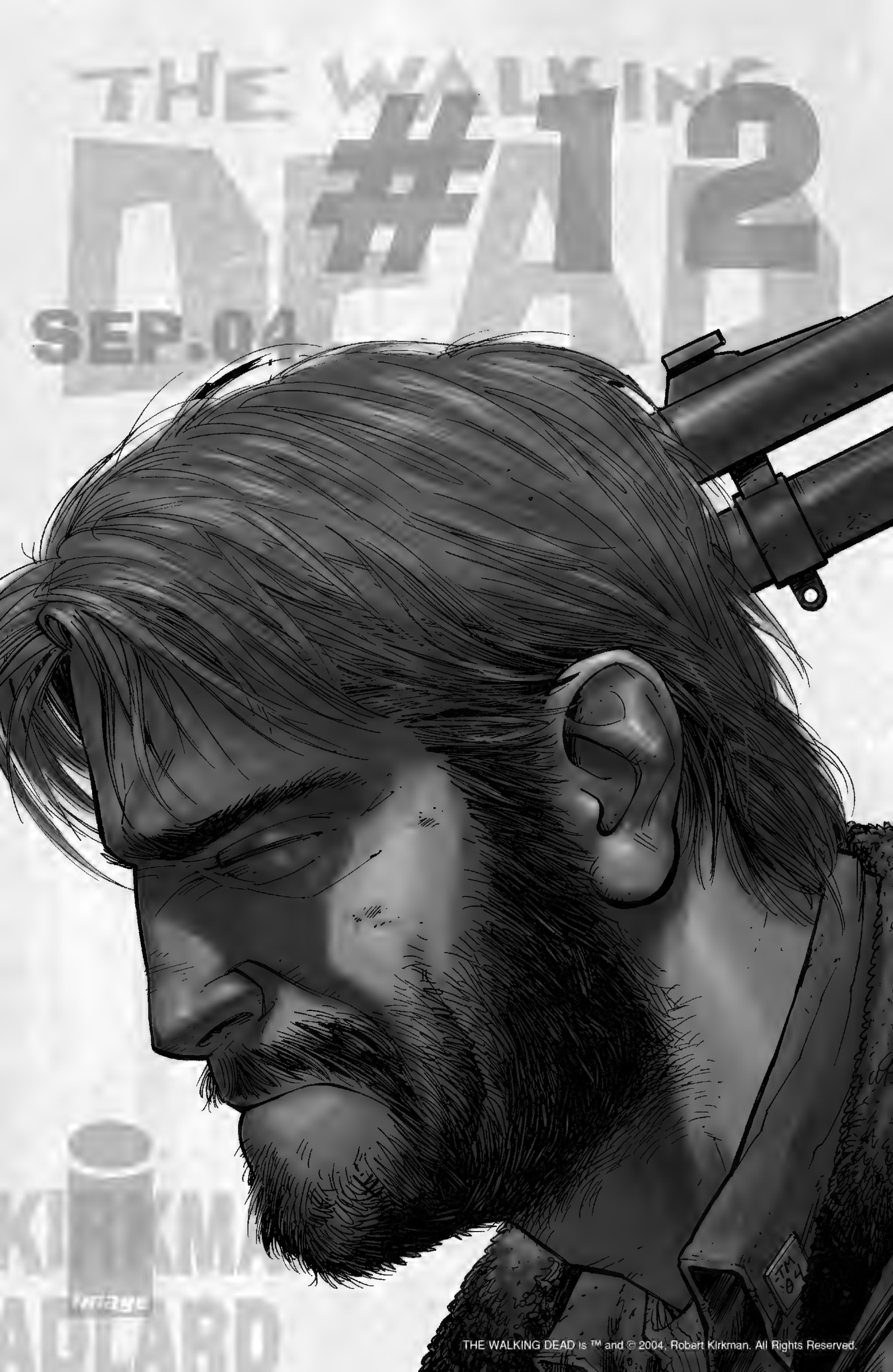












IMAGE



# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD  
C/O FUNK-O-TRON  
P.O. BOX 54386  
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Issue 11, damn... check it out guys. Issue 11. This is so cool. Both of my creator owned regular series are in double digits. I gotta admit... a year ago... I didn't know if I'd EVER get to do an issue 10. I repeat, this is so cool.

Now that we've got THAT out of the way. Some of you may have noticed that we've slipped in the schedule, and also that this issue is shipping a couple weeks after issue 10 (or it SHOULD have barring any printing mishaps). I'm doing something at Marvel called Marvel Knights 2099 and I swore up and down that my Marvel work wouldn't get in the way of Invincible and this fine title... BUT, a strange thing happened... an entire month went by without me realizing I needed to letter and turn in these issues that Charlie was sending me. I just didn't... notice. I had these five Marvel Knights one-shots thrown into my lap at the last minute and all five scripts were due at the same time, that time being NOW. I kinda lost track of days in there... and then the San Diego Con threw another wrench into the plans. Anyway... I've fixed it, and as a result we'll be seeing a rapid succession of issues until we get to issue 14. There should be no more than two or three weeks between each issue. I hope to have 13 and the TPB containing issues 7-12 out on the last Wednesday in October... so let's see if I can manage that. Oh, and sorry guys. I promise I won't let this happen again.

Just to reiterate, this was NOT Charlie's fault. Charlie's been nothing but a professional on this title and has been early turning in every issue this far. I'm the fuck up here. Direct hate mail to ME. You know where to find me.

You can send some Cliff's way too if you want. I'm sure he deserves it for something... the fucker.

Now that that's off my chest... let's dive into the ol' mailbag and see if anyone's got anything interesting to say.

Hi guys,

Just wanted to take time out to say what a fantastic comic you've got going here. Not only does it concern zombies (They don't run! Yay!), but it's also one of the best written and wonderfully drawn books out there.

As you may have guessed, I'm not a big fan of running zombies. That was my one major gripe with the new Dawn of the Dead, although admittedly it did add a certain element of surprise and danger that is sometimes missing from films featuring the slower zombies. But then saying that, what I've always liked about zombie films (such as Romero's trilogy) is that despite the selling point being the presence of zombies, the main focus is on the characterization of the survivors and how they cope with the new world that is facing them, and I'm glad to see a similar approach in your series.

As we found out with Shane in the first story arc, a lot of the time the problems arise from the survivors and the zombies are just an unpleasant addition to the mix.

The art is another aspect of the series that works really well - the black and white suits the tone of the stories and from what I've seen we're in good hands (no pun intended...).

Needless to say, as long as the level of characterization and awesome stories continue, you'll find me a regular reader. Hell, even if you do eventually bring in aliens and stuff like that, I'm definitely along for the ride until the very end.

Here's too many years of the dead walking the Earth!

Simon Prior (UK)

What can I say other than WOO, and thanks for the kind words?

Hi Mr. Kirkman and The Walking Dead Crew,

I know many say this but I really mean it when I say, this is the first time I have ever written a letter to be printed in a comic book! I saved it for the HOLY GRAIL of intense ZOMBIE DRAMA BOOKS, The Walking Dead! Guys, this book is, GOD I wish I can come up with a better word, &%%\$&ing GREAT!!!! I read many books ranging from all comic book companies but your book is by far the best story to date! I want to be a writer, but with the small amount of time that I have it is very hard, but because of your great storytelling, it has inspired me to get back to track and start writing again! You guys are incredible! I just picked up issue #9 and man, can you say HBO MINI SERIES! Screw making a movie, (even though that would be sweet) but what I can see is a mini series on HBO titled THE WALKING DEAD!!!! How sweet would that be?! Just like running to the comic book store every month to pick up the latest issue of TWD, now you would have to run home every Sunday night at 9:00 and on HBO a new episode!!!! CAN YOU SAY "WOO HAA"!! Anyway, I know you guys are busy making the HOTTEST book this side of COMICVILLE so I will let you go till next time. Thanks for reading my letter and again, Keep up the AWESOME work and ROCK ON!!!

An Honest FAN,  
Toney Tapia

P.S. If there is a live mini series or movie, can I rock with you guys as a hardcore ZOMBIE!!!!?

No. We'll not be having any "hardcore" zombies in any live-action version of TWD... that's just too low brow for us. And what's up with you just wanting a mini-series? We're not good enough for a full on series? What the hell man. I almost didn't print your letter. In FACT, I still might not... just to spite you.

Hot damn, issue #9 was awesome. This series leaves me on the edge of my seat like no other. The endings are always exciting as hell. I just hate the wait between every issue! I know that's how comics work though, and I'm used to it by now. Keep up the good work.

-Mike Neuman

The wait between issues WILL be shorter over the next three months.



Letter Hacks,

Holy shit. Issue #9. Just...damn. Carl. Shot. Totally didn't see that coming at all. I'm not gonna bother to ask if he's alright, I'm sure I'll find out next issue before this gets printed(if it even does). But see that's the thing I love about this book. The unpredictability of it. No matter how much you love the character, knowing that at any second something could happen to them just makes it all the more enjoyable to anticipate and read each month. Adlard's art is really adapting to the book. I'm really enjoying it more and more with each issue. I wish I could write more but I'm still sort of reeling from it. I trust you guys, I know it'll turn out in a kick ass way.

Keep it coming!  
- Mike Storniolo

Man, look at young Mike Storniolo taking the reigns from Chris Piers as guy-who-gets-a-letter-printed-in-every-issue. I guess Chris got a date... or some action of some kind from a member of the opposite sex... or same sex... I don't really know what he's into. I could tell you what I THINK he's into though... have you seen the guy? And yes, Mike... Adlard is kicking much ass with this book. I'm excited as you guys are when I first see his pages. Adlard = The Man.

Zombiologists,

Daa-yam! Carl's shot! Didn't see that coming.

Which is why I really like what you all are doing. I never know what to expect (which ain't easy in this medium). And I'm torn, ta boot. If Carl isn't dead, I'll be a little disappointed, but also very relieved. Disappointed because "I knew you wouldn't kill him". Relieved because I've really gotten close to the little guy.

And Charlie kicks! I was skeptical at first, but was very pleasantly surprised when he debuted with issue 7. I've followed his work since the X-Files. He's improved dramatically (and I liked his work before). I never imagined I'd prefer his take on the material better Tony's, but I honestly do. He brings an amazing amount of needed atmosphere to the book. With issue 9, he has hit his stride.

75 issues, huh? Or will you have changed it to 100 by the time the next issue comes out? No matter. I'm there.

Later,  
Chip from Tampa, FL

You're right. I suck... I'd never kill Carl, he ain't dead. Congrats to you for seeing it coming. It was also spoiled on previews of the cover for this very issue, so I doubly suck. Sorry. And yeah... I'd like to do AT LEAST 75 issues but this isn't a Preacher, Transmetropolitan, Bone type book where I want to do 75 or so and quit. I want to do as much as I possibly can. If Charlie and I were working on issue 150 thirteen years from now... I'd be a happy man. I wonder how Charlie would feel? Probably sick of drawing people standing around talking, I would think.

Touché, Kirkman.

Perhaps I just wanted very badly for Charlie Adlard to have drawn Mantooth?

Well played,  
Chris

\* No disrespect to Andy Kuhn. Though, I suppose I've inadvertently done just that. Let's burn some bridges then—fuck that guy

Yes. Indeed, fuck that guy. Also... fuck those of you reading this who don't get that the above letter references a letter and response from a previous letters column. Actually, though... I love that Andy Kuhn... he's a fucking stud too... just so you know.

Hey Robert, Charlie and Cliff,  
Just wanna congratulate you guys on an awesome issue this month. Nice fucking cliffhanger again Robert! Damn, you gotta stop doing that. But I'm definitely getting use to Charlie's art and really liking it. Just thought I'd let you guys know what a good job you were doing, like you already don't know. Thanks

Mark B.

I knew the changeover would be tough to take at first, and change is difficult, but Charlie really pulled out all the stops and is kicking much ass on this book. I knew you guys would fall in love with the guy as much as I have. Good thing we've got that Atlantic Ocean between us, eh Charlie?

Dear Dead Walkers,

Now, I've been a fan of the Zombie genre for quite a while now. I don't buy too many monthly comic titles, but I saw the Days Gone Bye paperback and I thought I'd give it a shot. All I can say is: HOLY FREAKING CRAP!! This is Zombies done right! The characters, the story, and the artwork were all so spot on I could sing (don't worry, I won't). I ran right out and snapped up issues 7-9. I then let my girlfriend and her sister borrow them, and now we're all hooked. A whole month seems so long to wait for the next installment now! I do have to admit I was very disappointed to see Mr. Moore go. Nothing against Mr. Adlard, but Moore's style was just so perfect for the subject matter. Ah, you're probably sick of hearing that by now. One touch I found very gratifying is the length of the letters pages. In a time when most comics don't even bother with one now It's nice to see some genuine feedback. Now just a few quick questions before this e-mail gets any longer:

1. Any chance of Zombie Dogs in the future? or are only humans affected?2. Which month are our heros in by this point?3. If you had to pick one all time favorite Zombie movie of all time, which would it be?. Ever played the "Zombies!!!" board game? I highly recommend it.

Keep it coming,-Jason Price  
PS- pleasepleaseplease don't let Cory be dead!

Who the hell is Cory?

1. No dog zombies. Only Humans are effected. Haven't been keeping track. I'm thinking March or so, by this issue. Day of the Dead. No. I don't care.

Robert,  
HOLY CRAP!!!!

How could you do that to little Carl? He's the first kid in a comic I didn't feel like chucking out a 9th story window! Other than that the issue still rocked! Keep up the great work and I'm still into "Dead" for the long haul!

John L. Parduba

Relax, Carl's fine.

Hi,

I own a comic shop up in Lacey, WA. I have been reading your book only for a couple months, now (sorry). I love it, though. The irony is that my fiancée has been a HUGE fan of both this and Invincible. He spent month after month trying to get me to add them to my ever growing stack of reads. I try to read just about all the comics that come out, but I am not a fan of Zombie fare, so, sadly, I skip them, and leave them to my resident Zombie Fanatic. When the trade paperback came out, I decided to give it a whirl. I LOVED IT! LOVE IT! LOVED IT! What an amazing read! I must say that I was happy to have read it as a trade, because your freaking cliffhangers drive me nuts! I just finished reading #9, for the third time. And yep, every time, Carl gets shot. I can't wait for the next one. I read a lot of comics in my week...but, there are my Wednesday reads. The special few that I take time out of the busiest day of the week to read...this one has hit the list:)

It is consistently on the "Gabi's Picks" list now. :) It is one of the books I put in people's hand that like Zombies, Survival Comics, stories about people interacting, or anything else I can think of. We went from selling 5 copies a month to ordering 35 in the last previews....that beats out some of my Batman, X-title numbers! We are not a huge shop so, those numbers may not be impressive to you, but for us, those are good, solid numbers. I have sold over 20 of the first tradepaperback, and have ordered more. :) We give a money back guarantee on it. If they don't like it, they can bring it back. Not a single return to date:) It is a great book, and I really enjoy it.

In addition, we have upped order on all your other books. Like the new 2099 series, we



ordered more of because of your quality of writing:)

Thanks for the fun read, keep up the good work.

If you ever have any plans on being in this neck of the woods, we would LOVE to have you for a signing. I was sad that I didn't get a chance to meet you at San Diego Con. We were there for far too short a stay:(

Thanks!  
Gabi

It's always good to hear from the retailers of the world. I hear a lot of you saying that you have a money back guarantee on Invincible and/or The Walking Dead and I must say that I REALLY appreciate that. It's nice to hear about good full-service retailers helping sell the books. You guys already have SOOOOO much on your shoulders (as I mentioned in a previous letters column) and the fact that so many of you are going that extra mile and taking time to REALLY promote my books does not go unappreciated. Thank you very much.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,  
I am one of the owners of a small shop in Des Moines, Iowa and would like to thank you for your comments in issue number nine about preordering and sales. You nailed down, better than anyone I've heard recently, the problems the retailer faces. Most people do not understand what it's like to run a comic shop. It's not all sun and cloudless skies. It's tough. When a retailer takes a risk on a title, because it looks interesting, they think it can sell or ties into better selling books during a crossover, all the extra copies left sitting on the shelf are non-returnable. Most retailers get between 45 and 55 percent discount on the comics they order and less on action figures and specialty merchandise. So, the ten extra copies left over of that "hot" new book by that "hot" new artist/writer team with a suggested retail price of \$2.99 each is going to be a loss of \$15. I hope the next time people go into a comic shop, they should take a look at the shelves. Every book on the racks is for the retailer to keep and I for one don't need eight extra copies of the latest issue of Iron Man in my personal collection. All those books have been paid for and are generating NO revenue.

The thing is there isn't a shop I've been in that doesn't offer a hold policy of some kind. Most retailers, the true backbone of the comic book industry, use hold customer preorders as one of the biggest tools in judging what to buy and what to take chances on.

The Walking Dead is an amazingly good book both when it comes to writing/art as well as sales. I am happy to say that The Walking Dead is one of our top ten best sellers. However, I know at least two other shops in town don't even carry it. The eternal dilemma of the small press comic. Preorder-ers are to thank for some of the increase in our sales, but word of mouth is easily the best tool. I love the zombie horror genre and I ordered TWD for myself, while taking the risk of eight issues for my shop. It sold okay at first, mostly due to my recommendation. Purchases stayed around ten a month until the trade came out. I thank you, Mr. Kirkman, for using the trade paperback how it should be used, to help sell the ongoing series. I've now nearly tripled my orders in less than a year, thanks to the trade, unheard of for any other book in our shop.

Sorry, to prattle on. I just had to express my gratitude to you for your comments. I truly wish more creators would sound off on the problems in the industry.

Nonetheless, thanks and keep up the great work on what is easily one of my personal favorites right now.

Matt Johnson  
Co-Owner  
Cup o' Kryptonite  
4521 Fleur Drive Suite F  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Thanks for the letter Matt. Like I said above... my thanks to you and your retailing brethren for really busting ass for this book and MAKING it a success. I don't usually print addresses but I figured this was the address of your store and if people are in the area, I want people to support you. Although, from what you say in your letter... if people are READING this letters column, and they live in your area... they probably got this book from you in the first place... so I'm really just wasting my time. People... drive to Des Moines, give this guy your money. He's one of the good guys. Cool store name, by the way.

Dear Letter Hacks,  
Here's my letter, in haiku...

It is really weird  
How Kirkman thinks up plot lines  
That I'd like to live.

Not that I'm psycho,  
But wouldn't it be crazy  
If that did happen?

Zombies all over...  
One thing's for sure, it would change  
Our priorities!

In the ninth issue,  
They all just want food (or sex).  
Pretty basic needs.

Anyway, point is -  
Some of us (in a sick way)  
Would welcome that world.

It would certainly  
Be one exciting life, huh?  
If just for a while...

But soon we'd go nuts  
With no police to stop us.  
Justice - ours to make.

Rick has a big choice.  
And I can't wait to find out!  
Will he shoot that dude?

Well, by now we know...  
But what would each of us do  
In poor old Rick's place?

Kirkman, your brain's neat!  
I'm getting used to the art.  
Different, but cool.

Again, Robert, thanks  
For making a dark, odd world  
That we can live in!

Now I've got to go!  
There's a zombie in my yard!  
Yes!!!!...No...shit...mailman.

Bye-O!  
Stephen Lacombe  
Belleville, Ontario

Wow... my first Haiku. I was going to be all clever and try and reply to you in a Haiku but y'know... I'm just too tired for that right now... so you'll just have to settle for me making fun of you. A Haiku?! What the hell were you thinking, man? That's just WACKY... immensely wacky. Jesus... I hope that isn't your real name.

Glad you like the book.  
What's coming up next is cool.  
I think you'll dig it.

I'm going to go laugh until I pee blood now.

Dear Mr Image Big Shot,

(Had a ring to it in Issue 9 that I liked :D)

So..... you big mean bastard.... shooting kids in the fucking back now!! That's just so fucking cruel! LoL... what a shocking and depressing end to issue 9! and a great way to let the suspense build in time for issue 10! Shame that the previews for issue 11 kind of spoil the fate of young Carl's destiny in this horrific world, but like some people on the image forums have said, we still don't know what Rick will do with this guy who shot Carl! Now? Why, if you can across 3 zombies. Two big adults and a kid, would you kill the kid first? Obviously the adults are going to be bigger and more powerful. As well as cover more distance if you need to scurry away! That's it, I'm not going to speculate more on it.... it will just get me gagging for the next issue more, and is obviously your plan (Damn you Robert!) Few things I have to say about the letters column in the same issue. One, thanks for printing my letter. Ever since I started using my mates (Tim Gentles also in the letters column for that issue) computer, I have posted a letter to you after every issue, and not only did I get one in. But I got my issue 6 and 7 letter in. So thanks again. Glad to hear that you didn't want to end it at 75 if you could. I sure that I can vouch for plenty of other 'Deadites' around the world, that we will support this book till the end. It really is something



special! Okay so like many people said, Tony Moore was a big loss when he left the book, and its a shame he couldn't stay on, and even though it took a few issues to get used to, I have to say that both Cliff and Charlie have done a outstanding job at taking over and I am glad that you have decide to use these talented artists. Good job guys, and keep up the good work :D I have to agree with Chris Piers's letter. The new addition of Tyreese is excellent, and just what the group needs. The one thing I am looking forward to seeing now is, someone famous joining the group and seeing how they are effected in the world. Should be an interesting way of seeing how they are coping with the sudden life style change.

Anyway, off I go.... got other comics to read But I seriously enjoying it  
RK, and I have pre-ordered up to issue 13 and ordered the second arc's  
Trade Paperback, and now am getting two copies of each issue!

Now that's a fan for ya!

Lee Sanders (Little Lee)  
SW England

P.S. Heard the good news at Comic Con. Congratulations!  
You going to be  
there next year? I might have to buy a canoo and come over. :D

Actually, Lee. If you've seen Dawn of the Dead you'll remember that child zombies are actually quite hyper and much faster than adult zombies. Either that or child actors just couldn't grasp the whole concept of moving slow and moaning. In fact... that scene in Dawn of the Dead may be the first appearance of the dreaded "fast zombies" that seem to be plaguing our fine genre. As far as bringing a celeb into this book, I just don't think it's something I want to do. I just get flashbacks to the Tom Petty scene in the Postman... and I know I could never top the emotion conveyed in it with anything I could do here. So I figure... why try?

Hello Walking Dead folks,

I love zombie movies, and I have zombie holocaust dreams quite frequently.

I was sort of skeptical of zombie comics at first. After describing a zombie dream to my local comic dealer, he turned me on to Walking Dead. I bought the trade on my lunch break and I didn't get any work done for the rest of the day. Your book sucked me in and there was no escape. I had zombie dreams all night long. Now I'm getting the single issues and I LOVE IT! I just picked up issue nine today, and again I'm not getting any work done.  
I can't believe the end of this one. That was so HARSH!  
My only complaint is that I can't read issue ten RIGHT NOW!  
Make more faster!

You've got my money for as long as this book exists.  
Keep up the great work!  
-Chris Taylor

Gayest letter ever. Zombie DREAMS?! You should have written a haiku.

Just read issue number 9. Damn. And I thought I was a rotten bastard. What you did at the end of this issue (another stroke of brilliance) was just...damn brave. Congrats. How's your karma these days 'cause after killing that kid I have a feeling some bad mojo may be on the way.

Keep up the great work, Rob!  
Ryan "Rotten" Turek

My karma is just fine... you see, not only is the kid not dead, but he's also NOT REAL. See, I have all my bases covered.

Dear Letter Hacks,

First, let me say that I greatly enjoy the work all of you put into not just TWD, but all the other books you work on. I have been with TWD since #1 and look very much forward to each next issue.

Now that I have said that, let me get to the reason for this letter. I just finished issue 9 and have noticed alot of artist bashing in the past few issues. Granted Tony Harris is one of the most talented out there. More so than certain cover hogs out there. But, you have to understand that it was time for him to go on to other things. We are now at a point where the TWD story will be getting a bit darker. Characters will be acting more out of emotion than logic. What better way to reflect this than with an artist that has a more "heavy and thick" look to his work. Honestly, this title could have started with Adlard and Rathburn and later switched to Harris and we would be hearing the same complaints in reverse. People just need to accept that Tony is gone and the book is now in the more than capable hands of Charlie and Cliff. If you have read issue 9 yet, you would know that this title is going to be taking us in a whole new direction now. I won't spoil the ending, but let's just say the new art will be shown as the masterpiece it is.

Anyway, I just had to take a few moments to defend the guys that give me my favorite monthly series.

Also, in the letters page of issue 9, one person suggested a TV show. I could just see it....the Doctor Who of zombies. Man am I gonna have some sweet dreams tonight.

Take care and I am looking forward to issue 10 and beyond.

Tone Penley  
Tampa, FL

Tony Harris is indeed a talented fellow. The problem was that DC snatched him up to illustrate Brian K. Vaughan's wonderful new title, Ex Machina at the same time Marvel grabbed him to illustrate Mark Rickett's Iron Man run (which is shipping along side my four-issue run on Captain America). So he was more than a little busy and had to move on. Anyway, glad you did what Charlie and Cliff are doing--or as I like to call them; the C & C music factory.

Letterhacks,

Oh, Robert... What have you done?

I almost never make it to my comic store on New Comic days. It's hard enough getting out there once a month, let alone every Wednesday. So I've gotta keep myself from reading spoilers and asking people what happened in your comics until I'm actually able to pick up the issues I had been missing. But sometimes I get too curious and I must know at least a little bit. Try to imagine my terror when I logged in at PJ and read that you had offed yet another character. First thought that came to mind was you had done in Rick. But that didn't make any sense because I had seen the cover with a gun to the back of his head for a later issue... which DIDN'T make me feel any better, just to let you know. Second thought was that it was either Dale or Andrea because everyone knows that you're not supposed to have sex in these kinda stories!... or does that rule only apply to horror movies? But then I continued to read on and saw a comment by a fellow PJer stating that the ending to #9 was even worse if you have kids.

...Kids? No way. Robert wouldn't kill a kid says I!

I hate it when I'm wrong. Not only did poor little Carl have to go but so did Donna. It took me a while but I had actually begun to like her. And then you did it again... just like you did with Jim. You took them away. But the worst thing about this is that it is all done so very well! I know that their deaths are going to have a greater impact on future issues. I just love all these character so much. More so than, dare I say, any other comic character I've ever read. They are, for lack of a better word, real. No bulging muscles, no perfect hair or spandex. These people could be my neighbors! So of course I'm saddened when not only one, but two characters are killed off in one issue. And xadrian was right. It is MUCH worse when you have kids.

Anyway, enough babbling. I'm not up there with Chris Piers yet. Charlie, you are doing wonderfully. They all seem



more natural in this issue and I can't wait to see what you've got for us in the next one. Robert, exceptional as always... even if you do keep killing the characters I like. Awesome issue, guys. Keep it up!

Jenn Lee

The sad reality of this series is that characters have to die. That's just the facts. One way to make sure that you readers are always surprised by who dies is to kinda make these decisions on the fly. When I started the script for 9 I knew somebody was going to die, but I hadn't decided who until I had mapped out the whole issue. I think it keeps things more true to life if I play it this way. It's also more fun. In the future though, the deaths will become less frequent as our characters settle in. So far it's been and every three issues or so. I want to at least once go about 10 issues without anyone dying... let's see if I can pull that off.

Dudes

Since reading a review of your book in SFX magazine I immediately bought the first book and instantly hooked. I hope you can carry this on for years and years.

How cool would a "The Walking Dead" television series be. being able to develop stories and characters over 22 episodes a season. I think the American television networks better start giving you calls. Has there ever been a zombie television drama?

To all American zombie fans I recommend Shaun of the Dead which should be hitting your cinemas soon, very funny, very scary and one of the best zombie movies since Day of the Dead.

Anyway love the book and wont stop reading till you stop writing.

Blake Goddard  
Leicester, UK

I didn't know we were reviewed in SFX magazine. I suppose by your reaction is was a positive one. A TV series would be nice. I know I'D certainly love to see one. We'll see if it happens though. Any developments on that front will be announced here first. Shaun of the Dead is in fact an AWESOME damn movie. It should be in theatres here in the states by the time this issue sees print, so I recommend you all run out and see it immediately. Don't let the comedy fool you, this is a full on, kick ass, zombie movie... that also happens to be funny. The gore is there, the zombies are there, the effects are great. It's a fine flick.

Kirkman, you Bastard.

I hate zombies. I've never seen a zombie movie. I've never wanted to see a zombie movie. The only reasons I even bought this book was because of Invincible. That and your shameless plugs at San Diego, as you autographed each issue for me. Invincible is awesome. That horrible plot turn with Omni was awesome. (I loved the trash bag gag.)

I hate that while reading TWD in a small room, I'm afraid that when I go back into the main house, all my family will be zombies. I hate that I was afraid to sleep out on my deck last night in the cool summer night. I hate that I can't wait until the next issue comes out.

Damn you Kirkman.  
-Brian Powell

Is this hate mail? I just can't tell.

Hello Mr Kirkman,

This is the first time I have written to comic so please bear with me, the comic is simply fantastic, sheer genius. I always leave your comic till last out of my weekly comic bundle, just to savour it, the best till last.

Seeing that a lot of people that write to you from the United Kingdom always seem to be English, as a Scotsman I thought it was my duty to tell you that a fair amount of Scottish people read you comic as well! We are lucky enough to have 3 comic shops in Aberdeen, and your comic always sells out, sometimes there are not enough for the pre-orders either! (any chance of sending more the U.K's way?)

Anyway here are a couple of questions I hope you will answer:

1. At first I agreed with "He who is Q" in the issue 9 letters page about Charlie Adlard, but now I find his take on the series growing on me, hopefully he will be with us for a while yet but are planning to get other artists to have a turn on the comic?

2. Have you heard about Shaun of the Dead? Its Britain's take on the Zombie flick (better than 28 days later in my opinion) and is Bloody funny to boot. I urge you to check it out, most American Movie sites seem to have a few articles/ trailer downloads on the film!

3. I know your comic is centered on America and American characters, but how has the rest of the world dealing with the Living dead? Have less populated countries (say like Saudi Arabia, Greenland and Australia) did they manage to contain the menace more effectively, maybe still having some form of government? I know you have to centralize on the "little people" and ignore the larger picture but it would be interesting to find out what happened to the rest of the planet.

Anyhow, cheers for listening and keep up the good work!

Paul Middleton  
Scotland (United Kingdom)  
Aberdeenshire

Yeah, I've notice that an unusual amount of mail on this book comes from the UK. I think that's cool as hell. Good to have all you dirty foreigners aboard. Now, for the questions.

1. This is Charlie's book for as long as he'll take it. I love his work, doing this book with him has been a dream come true. I hope he stays on it for years and years.

2. Seen it, loved it, raved about it in this letters column many times. Seek out "Undead" as well. It's also a great flick.

3. I don't even know how the rest of the world is doing. The thing about this book is that it focuses on Rick and crew. These people would never really figure out what's going on in California, let alone Australia. So we may never find out what's going on in the rest of the world. Although, as with most thing, only time will tell.

Dear Storyteller of Warm Fuzzy Tales,

Issue #9 was great and all but why is no one looking or listening to any form of communication equipment? Some sort of radio should be on at all times. In issue #9 the thing you did the best was really present that even though the zombies walk slow - you can still get in a panic when you see them and any misstep could be fatal.

I wanted to ask you about a horror theory I heard years ago. Basically, the theory was that horror was popular in odd numbered decades. 1930's - Dracula, 1950's - UFO's & Aliens, 1970 - Exorcist & DC/Marvel Horror, 1990's - All the horror nostalgia movies. So we should be in a horror free decade now right? Well, it was a loose theory based that when times got scary so did the horror genre and then things calmed down and horror took a back seat. But it seems horror and scary subject matters are all the norm these days, especially in comics. Do you think the world just got constantly scarier the last few years and horror might be here to stay?

Brendan Walsh

That may be the case. I do enjoy the horror genre a great deal but if THIS is what we have to put up with in order for it to thrive... no thanks. I do think you've figured it out though. As for the communications thing, Rick was out for a good deal of the initial reactions and whatnot to the zombie threat. By the time he got to Atlanta our crew had given up on listening to radios... batteries... electricity... these things aren't exactly growing on trees, and are usually used for more important things like flashlights.

Dear Letter Hacks,

I cut my teeth on adult-themed comics with some of the best: Sandman and Preacher. I liked the surrealness



of Sandman and the boldness of Preacher. I'd trade both for The Walking Dead. I'm loving this book very much. Great work by all. I think Charlie Adlard is doing an excellent job as new interior artist and I'm very grateful that Tony Moore is still able to do covers (issue #9 has to be one of the best covers of all time). I have mixed feelings on the greys, but for the most part they make the black and white more "real" (how else would you describe it?). And the writing... if Ellis is Hemingway, you're Stephen King. You make the unbelievable - believable. Seeing Carl shot at the end of #9 let's me know that no one's safe, there are no safe characters' (except maybe Rick and in my opinion, he shouldn't be untouchable either) and that is a King-like twist. But most of all, you really develop the characters. If the characters are believable then the whole story is.

Questions:

1) Love the fact that you're not going to explain where the zombies came from. However, what about the impact this would have on survivor's beliefs. I'm an evangelical Christian and I often think, how would something like this affect my faith? Would I abandon it, change it, or maintain it? I have thought that a great idea for a story would be a Christian Youth Retreat out in the woods under a living dead siege. Imagine that dialogue! "Where's God in all this?" Suddenly a few "F-bombs" by the unruly teens would seem inconsequential, or would it?

2) If The Walking Dead makes it to television, rather than live action can we have animation (ala Todd McFarlane's Spawn - yeah I bet you didn't think evangelical Christians would watch read The Walking Dead or even watch "Spawn", well we know of one that does)? I don't know if you'd have any say in that but if you did, that would be the best way to see the characters "colorized" and "come to life"

3) Without giving anything away, I'm pretty sure Carl was shot by a survivor who was defending himself, not against the undead, but "scavengers" (that would explain the destroyed food in the general store, they couldn't take it and didn't want anyone else to have it). Romero's working a new dead film where class warfare is the main conflict. We'll we possible see civil war? Such as, one community of survivors vs. another community over resources? (this would be a strong possibility down, if this group keeps coming across survivors then we might assume there are other groups like them and if they're not "scavengers" then the drama is tenfold! Who do you root for when both sides are fighting for survival, can the coexist?).

If this sees print in the back of your book it'll take up a lot of coveted letter space. This is my first letter to any comic book and as long you're around it won't be my last. Keep the TPBs coming. I collect the monthlies, but love the TPB for real "sitdown" reading (I missed #1 and #2, but the TPB made up for it). If there is a successor to Stephen King or George Romero, Robert Kirkman may be the man (even if your work isn't truly "horror" or "macabre").

Merl Key  
Columbus, IN.

PS - Have you ever spoken to George Romero? If there is a fifth dead movie he should let you handle the script!

1. We'll be dealing with a little religion in upcoming issues. But not exactly in the way you're thinking.
2. I'd love to see it as a live-action show with the color washed out. Maybe not totally black and white... but dulled down and muted, not quite realistic colors. I think that would be neat.
3. Stay tuned.

Oh, come on... you can't ALL be writing in to a comic for the first time, I mean COME ON! The TPB's will be coming every six months. We'll have a TPB in October and April of every year as long as this book continues. Never spoke to George, but I'm easy to get in touch with.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Just finished reading Issue #9. Wow! You sure know how to knock your readers for a loop. I sure hope that little Carl isn't dead. (That's a testament to your skills as a writer. Most children in comics are too obnoxious to care about.) I've been loving "THE WALKING DEAD" since issue one. Thanks for giving us intelligent, moving, poignant, character-driven stories that still manage to be creepy, scary, suspenseful, and full of surprises. I have to admit that I miss Mr. Moore's art, but Mr. Adlard is doing a GREAT job. I especially loved the panels on page nine showing the zombies reacting to the gunshot. As a reader, you couldn't help but respond, "Oh, s\*\*t!!!"

As an African-American reader, I also want to thank you for your realistic, non-stereotypical depictions of minority characters. It's great to see people of color featured prominently in the storylines.

"THE WALKING DEAD" is one of my favorite reads each month. Keep up the FANTASTIC work you're doing, and I'll keep reading! Take care!

Sincerely,  
Christopher Providence

Oh, come on, aside from Morgan in the first issue, the first prominent black character I introduce is a damn pro sports player! Not to mention the fact that he latched on to the only single white chick almost immediately. You should be up in arms!! I'm perpetuating stereotypes here. Didn't you see the issue where Glenn used his Kung Fu math skills?

Wow. The initial 6 issue story arc was powerful, but this new arc is just fantastic! I've just read #9 & it blew me away. Comic of the year by a clear mile! Keep up the great work guys.

Mark Jarvis  
London

PS Whenever you name-check artist Charlie Adlard's work you never mention the incredible stuff he's done this side of the pond on 2000AD over the last few years - particularly on 'Judge Dredd' & most recently on the funk'n' great Pat Mills penned 'Savage'.

Sorry. I've never really picked up any 2000AD stuff (sorry) so I'm not familiar with Charlie's stuff there. But he recently sent me some jpegs of the stuff he did prior to taking over this book and I must say... it's some of his best work. I absolutely loved it. I've also always been a fan of Pat Mills Marshall Law so I can't help but think that Savage must be the best thing ever produced.

I just got my copy of the second printing of issue #7. I have your book on pre-order with my LCS, but he dropped the ball with 7. From what it sounds like someone above him dropped the ball. Why are you guys publishing so few books that issue 7 (not 2 or 3) sells out of the publisher in 3 days??? However, this allowed me to read 7, 8 and 9 all at the same time. I wouldn't allow myself to skip an issue. I was so pumped, i re-read 1-6, and read all the letters. -  
Some of your fans can be a real pain in the rear!

I've been collecting comics sporadically since I was a wee lad picking up TMNT and usagi yojimbo in the mid 80s. The TMNT sell out of the late 80s turned me off the genre for a spell. However, Dave McKean's Cages sporadic release dates kept me coming back to stores during this time. I usually got my fix with manga purchased at bookstores though. You may notice a theme between these books. None have color. I typically don't buy a book if it does have color.

What is wrong with a Black-and-White book? This is nothing to apologize for! It is a feature to be flaunted. A poorly published coloring job is awful, at best color muddies the art. There is something clean about true black and white. The gray tones you use affect mood and character. Your book is beautiful.

Other titles I have loved are: Now's terminator series (of which 'sara's slammers' has an odd connection with the day of the dead: post apocalyptic warriors living in missile silos in Florida with a strong female leader named sara - a good one to check out), Hex (dc's short lived post-apocalyptic biker/western), and Tank Girl. These were all, with various amounts of comic book silliness, about people - placed in a post-apocolypic world. This is why I love your book so much.

While I am sorry to see Mr. Moore leave, Mr. Adlard and Mr. Rathburn's work is stellar. I didn't notice, at first read, the switch.

As to your fan's further harping about electricity, injured hands, comparisons to movies, continuity issues, etc... GET A LIFE! Has no one ever heard of the concept of the suspension of disbelief? This is a story about zombies in a comic book format! For pete's sake!

The narrative quality of the story causes me to suspend my disbelief. I am a slobbering fan boy - I will admit it. However, the quality of this title does force me to not notice such details. Upon the fifth or sixth read it



may come into my mind, but such matters are beyond this book.

You are doing an excellent job. So excellent that I have been inspired to write you. The first comic book I have ever written. Thank you for your stated devotion to this title. I have had difficulty keeping up the list of titles for my bag, as most everything I like is not only obscure, but they are always mini-series. Whether they mean to be or not. You publish an on time - consistently well written and paced - and beautifully drawn comic book. What a rarity.

Congratulations on your Eisner Award nomination. You were robbed. I mean, plastic man?? come on!

steven walker

It's not that we're printing very little of these books. We've been printing THOUSANDS of extra copies of each issue and they've still been selling out. We're certainly not under printing this book to generate sellouts. We want to sell as many copies as we can. I don't think my readers need to "get a life" though... I welcome people writing in with continuity mistakes, and noticing that it doesn't snow that much in Atlanta. It makes me realize you people care, and that's a GOOD thing, in my opinion. Oh, and Plastic Man is a good title. I would have preferred losing to Sleeper (or y'know... Invincible) but Kyle Baker is talented as all get out and he deserved the award.

re: Walking Dead 9 and Spiderman UL 4

Mistah Kirkman:

These two titles demonstrate a whole lot of range on your part. With Walking Dead, you've got horror, and lots of it. That was unbelievable. You've solidified the idea that anything can happen with this book, that there are no sacred boundaries, which is the most critical element to any horror story. And with Spidey Unlimited, a short & simple story about a guy that finds true love. The neat thing was you had me wondering which girl it was with until the last page. Great job on both fronts, Robert! Odds are I'll see you in Chicago this weekend. Later!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Walsh

Thanks for the kind works, Ryan. Between you and Storniolo who needs that Chris Piers clown?

First I want to say what an amazing comic this is. I had been told about it over and over again and finally just gave in and bought it at #7. I don't regret it and even managed to hunt out first prints of all the back issues (expensive, but worth it). Just an amazing series that I hope doesn't end anytime soon.

Anyway, on to my question: Is there a possibility of any of the covers to be turned into posters of some sort? Some of these are absolutely gorgeous and I'd love to get a larger version. #6 in particular.

Thanks,  
Tony

Jeez, Tony... if you want me to print posters of the cover you could just ASK, you don't have to write me a letter. Sheesh. We have no plans for posters at the moment but we'll see, maybe sometime down the line.

Dear Robert "Can I call you Bob?" Kirkman,

I recently enjoyed issue 9 (a big pat on the back to Tony for his most impressive cover of the series). I was thrilled to see your affirmation that the book stands a strong chance of really going the distance. The content of the issue, however, got me a thinkin' (as certain things sometimes do). See, I figured this might be a turning point for the gang, where they establish a more permanent home base for themselves. Instead, they were run out of town with extreme prejudice, courtesy of the Zombietown neighbourhood watch. I certainly don't mind unexpected twists such as this, but by the end of the book, the plot twists again like it's twisted so many times before: an established character is offed, and we see potential new additions on the horizon. Issue 9 was almost a chance for the story to evolve to the next step, and it really felt like it was time for something like that to happen, but at the end we're back to square one. Granted, the story is far from stale and there are several more issues available for progress and change to occur.

I am simply curious as to how long the narrative can remain fresh by relying on character recycling as the sole plot device. I'm not one to criticize - just wondered what your thoughts were on that. This raises a larger issue as well. As many times as you've said you want the book to hit 75+ issues, you've also stated your intention to never reveal the source of the zombies. I am aware of your reasoning on this and it makes a lot of sense. I wonder if these two goals are compatible, however. It is my understanding that the purpose of the book is to take a very protracted look at the existence of the characters post-zombieinducingdisaster, and also to be as realistic as possible. Clearly, realistically, survival would be the first goal of people in this situation. That is what the book is currently dealing with. Once that need is met however, what realistically comes next? Will the characters be satisfied with meager survival and no hope of anything more? Logically, people in this situation would want to understand the problem, and possibly look into solving it. This is because, as evidenced by droves of depressed retirees, people require purpose to be happy, much like a good story requires purpose in order to remain good. When it comes to this point, what will The Walking Dead do to give purpose to the characters and to the story, given that discussion of the zombie thing is off limits? It's probably tough to pull out an answer for that at this point, but at any rate, I just wanted to let you know that you've got me thinking about your comic book more than I think about most novels I read.

Chris Folkins  
Toronto, Canada

Think about how different the first six issues have been to the current arc. This book is evolving. I'm just taking my time in these issues and having fun with it. This is not going to be a "find someplace save-kill a character-move on" book. You will be a very happy man by the end of issue 12. I have big plans for this book and I promise you it will be fresh and exciting all the way up to issue 75, then I'll run out of ideas and throw aliens into the mix... I believe that's referred to as "jumping the shark."

Letter Hacks,

Hell, that Piers guy writes all the time, I might as well too. I love this letter column. With all your exposure over at Wizard and Newsarama, exclusive (well, semi-exclusive) deal with Marvel, and growing list of books a month, you're going to get too good/busy for us and this column will be reduced to one page of gushing fans saying you're great.

Is this book going to get around to explaining the zombie apocalypse, or do you kinda figure we are all familiar with Romero and sort of know what the hell is going on? Of course, you won't give it away here, but are you planning to reveal some sort of catalyst for the change like a Venus probe, or can we leave it to genetic experiments, feminism, and voodoo mysticism?

I think we all like the direction of the book or at least the fact that there is a direction. I can't believe you killed Donna! Worse, I can't believe I didn't see that coming! It's getting clearer now that nobody but our main protagonist and his wife are safe for now. I would have included Carl but you shot him. Didn't see that coming either. Damn Kirkman, you've managed to write a non-predictable zombie story, way to go.

And hey, Piers got his NFL guy, can I be a zombie?!? Blow my head off and make me wear a nametag or something to identify me. Come on Charlie, help me out! I can't afford to fly down and be an extra for Romero.

Chris Pitts

Never fear... this letters column will always be ridiculously long and boring as all hell. No, I've mentioned it before, I DO NOT plan to EVER reveal what happened to bring the dead back to life in this book. Now, if that pisses a ton of you off... I'll change my mind. No you cannot be a zombie.

YEAH!

The book is great! I have already read all 8 issues and I'm still curious what happening. Now I want to buy all two TPB's. The psychology aspect in this comics book is marvelous! Very special thanks to writer for that! I wish you good luck!



@Blackrooster

Bloody greetings from zombie fan from Poland! Keep the faith guys!

Thanks.

Dear Mr. Kirkman (or Robert if you prefer),

Congratulations. You have created a comic that is perfect in nearly every way, a success that few comic book writers can achieve. But after reading the letters column in the back of the comic I noticed that there were a few questions that haven't been asked (and forgive me if they have because I may have missed a few).

1. When you were a child did you read comics? If so what was you're favorite?
2. What made you decide to write comics in the first place?

The next questions aren't concerning you personally but what you are doing over the next few months and such?

3. On September 11 and 12 there is a comic convention in Baltimore that you are going to be attending. Will you there all day both days? And will you be signing while you are there?
4. What comics are you most looking forward to over the next few months?
5. Finally, because you are writing a comic about zombies yourself I can't help but ask if you are at all looking forward to "Toe Tags" by George Romero?

Thank you for your time and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,  
Tyler S.

1. I started reading comics regularly in sixth grade. I read most of the Marvel Comics line before following all the Image guys over to Image when I was in eighth grade. McFarlane/Larsen's Spider-Man ranked as my favorite at the time, but I LOVED me some X-Force back in the day as well.
2. I wanted to do something in comics the minute I learned people did that for a living. I originally wanted to be an artist, but I suck... and I'm fairly competent at this writing stuff, and to be honest, I think it's more fun.
3. By the time this sees print I will have already returned from the Baltimore con. I shared a large table with my buddies Frank Cho and Scott Kurtz and hopefully I got to meet a few folks and get rid of some of these boxes of comics I have cluttering up my studio here at the house.
4. Shit if I know. Powers... Hawaiian Dick... Savage Dragon... Plantetary... Avengers... I read SOOOO many books.
5. Oh, yeah. I can't wait. What I've seen of it looks great.

I was in my local comic book store a couple of months ago, pretending to buy Transformers comics for my six year old, when I noticed on the shelf above was one copy of "The Walking Dead", issue 7. Being a long-time zombie fan, I decided to give it a try, raced home, shoved Transformers Energon into my son's hand (while he feebly protested, "I HAVE this issue!") and read through it quickly.

I immediately returned to the store and ordered the trade paperback, and put myself on the pre-order list for future issues.

Since I started with 7, I have absolute no quarrel with artwork. I like Moore's style, but I like Adlard's and Rathburn's work just as much. Probably more so, since it was my introduction to the series. So for me, the way the characters look from 7 on is how they're supposed to look, and adjusting the other way was difficult. But not impossible, she says, narrowly eyeing several people she knows who gripe like whiny old ladies about the "shock" and "trauma" of the infamous artwork transition.

People move on for one reason or another in all industries. It's part of life. You keep your stories coming and find good people to illustrate, and I'll keep reading. In fact, if by some horrible circumstance you find yourself without an artist, you can illustrate the story with stick figures and I'll still buy it. Or you can send me the story treatment and after I read it, I'll generously draw the stick figures myself for free!

Plot twists: I can't believe you shot Carl! (she gasps, clutching her son to her bosom). Donna, I suspected that was coming. Of course you had to show she's really a sweet person first, so it would that much more excruciating. I think Carol and Tyreese make a nice couple, but I like Glenn, too. So, please get him with somebody or have he, Carol and Tyreese come to some sort of "arrangement", if you catch my drift. I mean, damn, if Dale can score, why not Glenn?

Sorry this got so seamy, but you started it with Shane and Lori!

Stay busy...  
Alison Smith

You'll be happy to see Glenn scoring in this very issue. Go Glenn. I hope you're happy, Allison. Oh, and just in case you didn't notice, Carl's fine! Woooooo!!!

And with that, I bring another ridiculously long and boring letters column to a close. I hope you folks enjoyed it. See you in a couple weeks if all goes according to plan!

-Robert Kirkman



# INVINCIBLE

#15

FROM THE  
WRITER OF  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA!

WRITTEN BY  
**ROBERT KIRKMAN**

ART BY  
**RYAN OTTLEY**

image





EMPIRE